

Reporting on the 2024-2025 Season and Celebrating the History of Policy Debate



Gordon Stables, NDT Director

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Glen Frappier, Host

Greetings from the NDT!

The 79th National Debate Tournament (NDT) was hosted in splendid fashion by Gonzaga University during April 4-8, 2025.

The opening ceremonies on Thursday and rounds 1 to 3 on Friday took place at the tournament hotel, The Centennial. Debate rounds 4 to 8, the double-octos and the awards banquet were held on the Gonzaga campus. Beginning with the octofinals and concluding with the finals, debate rounds were held at the hotel.

This issue of the *Alumni News* reports on the results from the 79th NDT, including the announcement of the award recipients for the coaching, service, and distinguished alumni awards for 2025. We also celebrate the lives of nine prominent NDT alumni that we lost recently.

Continuing our tradition of celebrating NDT history, we recount the events and people who participated in the third NDT in 1949, including stories about the final round debate, Annabel Hagood and Glenn Capp (the coaches) and the top speaker.

NDT Alumni Committee:
Adrienne Brovero, University of Kentucky
John Katsulas, Boston College
Mikaela Malsin, Emory University

Upcoming Tournaments

80th NDT--March 26 to March 30, 2026
Hosted by the University of Houston in
Houston, Texas

Contacting the NDT

Information about the NDT, including back issues of *Alumni News*, can be found on our website: <https://nationaldebatetournament.org/>

The *Alumni News* is also available on the American Forensic Association's website: <https://www.americanforensicsassoc.org/ndt-alumni-newsletters/>

Facebook users are encouraged to follow the NDT:
<https://www.facebook.com/National-Debate-Tournament-NDT-162782223799263/>

Alumni are invited to register their information to receive a copy of the newsletter.

Please submit your information using this Google document:
<https://forms.gle/hw7SCJsCm9i4TpZq5>

Ideas for future stories for the alumni newsletter can be emailed to John Katsulas at: katsulas@bc.edu

Binghamton Bearcats win the NDT!

Eli T. Louis & Jeremiah Cohn defeat Kansas in a 3-2 decision

The State University of New York at Binghamton team of Eli T. Louis, '25 and Jeremiah Cohn '26 defeated the University of Kansas to win the 79th Annual National Debate Tournament hosted by Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington during April 4 to 7, 2025.

During the preliminary rounds, Louis & Cohn compiled a 6-2 record with 19 ballots. Binghamton won their first 6 debates against Michigan State BS, Kentucky RS, Western Kentucky CF, Kansas LS, Georgetown CS, and Michigan SS. They lost their final two debates in split decisions to Kansas MR and Michigan BP. Their preliminary round performance earned them the 7th seed entering the elimination debates.

To reach the final round, Binghamton defeated four teams: Michigan State (Joanna Gusis & Stephen Lewis) in the double-octos (4-1 decision), Michigan (Cyrus Esmailzadeh & Rishi Shetty) in the octofinals (4-1 decision), Emory (Margaret Hecht & Daniel Gallagher) in the quarterfinals (3-2 decision), and California State, Long Beach (Curtis Ortega & Daniel Medina) in the semifinals (6-3 decision).

The other finalist team, John Marshall & Graham Revare of the University of Kansas, were the top seed with a record of 7-1 with 21 ballots. Their only loss came in round 3 to Emory (Margaret Hecht & Daniel Gallagher). As the top seed, Kansas received a bye in the double-octos.

Kansas defeated three teams to reach the finals: Michigan (Conner Shih & Avi Shah) in the octofinals (5-0 decision), Wake Forest (Gene Bressler & Alex Mojica in the quarterfinals (3-2 decision), and Dartmouth (Holland Bald & Nora Cai) in the semifinals (4-1 decision).

In the final round, Binghamton was locked negative, as they had debated and lost to Kansas in round 7 on the affirmative. The round began at 10: 35 p.m. with Graham Revare, the first affirmative speaker from Kansas, advocating a plan to have the United States Federal Government adopt an annually doubling carbon tax of at least \$190 on emissions from private jets, frequent business flyers, superyachts, and extra residences. The affirmative argued that taxing carbon emissions created by the lifestyle of the wealthiest Americans would prevent catastrophic climate change.

In response, Binghamton rejected Kansas' model of debate grounded in empirical evidence and policy analysis. Binghamton argued that this method of debate did not promote exportable skills, exploited minorities as lives to be saved, and ignored the history of marginalization of Black people in debate and society. Instead of evaluating the debate over the merits of imposing a carbon tax on luxury goods, Binghamton argued that the judges should vote negative and impose a luxury tax on the Kansas debate program.

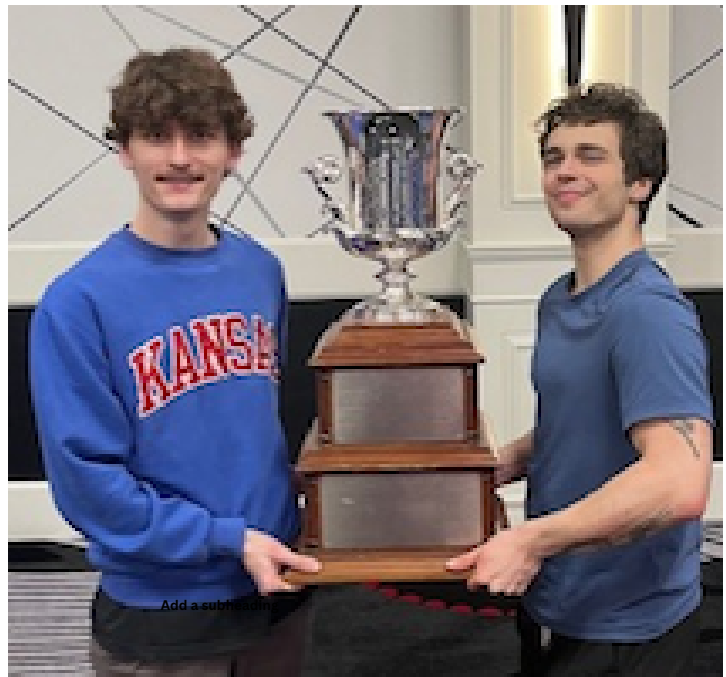
The decision of the final round judges was announced by Director Gordon Stables at 2: 00 a.m. as a 3-2 decision for Binghamton.

Binghamton's victory over Kansas was very much a "David defeats Goliath" story. Binghamton first qualified for the NDT in 2005; Kansas first qualified in 1948. Prior to 2025, Binghamton's best record at the NDT was two octofinals in 2024 and 2019; Kansas has won the NDT six times (2018, 2009, 1983, 1976, 1970, 1951), been a finalist three times (2016, 2024, 2025), and advanced to the semifinals 22 times.

Congratulations to the Binghamton debate squad and their coaches, Joe Schatz (Director), Ryan Wash, Thomas Buttgereit, Vincent Li, and David Michael Woodward.



Binghamton celebrating with the Larmon Trophy
L to R: Eli T. Louis, '25, Ryan Wash (Debate coach) & Jeremiah Cohn '26



Kansas holding the second place Walker trophy
L to R: John Marshall, '25 & Graham Revare, '25

79th National Debate Tournament

First-Round At-Large Recipients

There are three ways to qualify for the NDT. At the end of the “regular season,” the National Committee extends an invitation to the top sixteen teams. Another forty-six teams are selected through district qualifying tournaments. To fill out the field, sixteen teams that have not qualified received “second-round” bids. The teams receiving the first-rounds for the 2025 NDT included:

1. University of Kansas (John Marshall & Graham Revare)
2. Emory University (Daniel Gallagher & Margaret Hecht)
3. Dartmouth College (Holland Bald & Nora Cai)
4. University of Michigan (Eleanor Barrett & Jiyeon Park)
5. Binghamton University (Eli T. Louis & Jeremiah Cohn)
6. University of Kentucky (Jared Adam & Lauren McBlain)
7. Northwestern University (Akash Deo & Veronica Rubin)
8. Michigan State (Joanna Gusic & Stephen Lewis)
9. Macalester (Sam Price & Will Kochel)
10. Emory University (Lucas Lobo & Coralynn Yang)
11. California State, Long Beach (Curtis Ortega & Daniel Medina)
12. Georgetown University (Connelly Cowan & Ben Sayers)
13. Wake Forest University (Gene Bressler & Alex Mojica)
14. University of Kansas (Rose Larson & Luna Schultz)
15. University of Michigan (Avi Shah & Connor Shih)
16. West Georgia University (Sophia Dal Pra & Jordan Keller)

Rex Copeland Award

About the Copeland Award

The Rex Copeland Award is presented to the top ranked team in the first-round at-large balloting. Rex Copeland, an outstanding debater at Huffman High School and Samford, was murdered in 1989

The 2024-25 Copeland Award winner is John Marshall & Graham Revare of the University of Kansas. The vote by the NDT Committee was unanimous.

During the year, Marshall & Revare competed in 8 tournaments and won 4 of them, including the Owen Coon Season Opener at Northwestern, the Texas Open, Georgetown, and the Dartmouth Round Robin.

No other team won more than 2 tournaments. Daniel Gallagher & Margaret Hecht of Emory (the unanimous second place team) won the Kentucky tournament and the Kentucky Robin Robbin. Holland Bald & Nora Cai of Dartmouth (the third ranked team) won the Harvard Tournament. Eli T. Louis & Jeremiah Cohn of Binghamton (the fourth ranked team) won the Wake Tournament.

In the four tournaments they did not win, Marshall & Revare finished second twice (University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Round Robin), were in the semifinals at Wake, and advanced to the quarterfinals at Harvard.

By winning the last three tournaments in which they competed (Georgetown, the Dartmouth RR, and Texas), Kansas became a slam-dunk for winning the Copeland.

During the 2024-25 debate season prior to the NDT, the cumulative win-loss record for Marshall & Revare was 71 wins and 11 losses—an impressive 86.6% success rate. This included achieving a 40-4 preliminary round record, winning 23 out of 25 elimination round debates, and achieving an 8-4 record at the two round robin tournaments.

Another important metric that is decisive for many committee members is the head-to-head record of teams against the applicant pool of first-round teams. On this benchmark, Kansas again excelled. Marshall & Revare won 40 out of 50 debates against the other first-round applicants.

Marshall & Revare became the third team from the University of Kansas to win the Copeland Award. Previous Copeland winners from Kansas were Mark Gidley & Zachary Grant (1982) and William Katz & Quaram Robinson (2018).

Congratulations to the Kansas debaters and their coaches (Dr. Scott Harris and Dr. Brett Bricker) for winning the Copeland Award.



Dr. Brett Bricker (Head coach), John Marshall, Dr. Scott Harris (Director) & Graham Revare



Hecht & Gallagher from Emory holding their second place plaque

79th National Debate Tournament

District Qualifiers and Second-Rounds

Arizona State (Saxena & Smith)
 Baylor University (Benton & LoCicero)
 Baylor University (Keeler & Chatur)
 Binghamton University (King & Reza Husain)
 California State, Fullerton (Perez Rivas & Perez Rivas)
 California State, Long Beach (Escobar & Gurrola)
 Central Oklahoma (Smith & Walker)
 Cornell University (Dye & Kohlenberger)
 Dartmouth College (Cai & Guddati)
 Emory University (Conry & Piekut)
 Fullerton College (Meza & Martinez)
 George Mason University (Davis & Fuchs)
 George Mason University (Wright & Reed)
 Gonzaga University (Weinhardt & Wellman)
 Harvard University (Aoki & Bodet)
 Harvard University (Deshpande & Sridham)
 James Madison University (Conway & Pelletier)
 James Madison University (Rinehart & Balda)
 Kansas State University (Ardis & Day)
 Kansas State University (Sand & Sum)
 Liberty University (Cunningham & Layton)
 Michigan State University (Bennett & Shehzad)
 Michigan State University (Miklovis & Montford)
 Missouri State University (Granger & Bodenhorn)
 Missouri State University (Burns & Kimmerle)
 Northwestern University (Arney & Lundberg)
 Northwestern University (Pacconi & Souchet)
 New York University (Makinde & Saigal)
 Samford University (Gill & Pack)
 Southern Nazarene University (Horton & Cruzan)
 Southwestern College (Sanchez & Sanchez)
 Towson University (Christ & Persaud)
 Trinity University (King & Patterson)
 United States Military Academy (Opron & Song)
 United States Naval Academy (Connor & Rea)
 University of California, Berkeley (Menotti & Reichel)
 University of California, Berkeley (Tsan & Boguslavsky)
 University of Georgia (Ippagunta & Potdar)
 University of Houston (Doratt & Fernandez)
 University of Houston (Khan & Yadagiri)
 University of Iowa (Anderson McElligott & Parfenoff)
 University of Iowa (Bilicki & Weimar)
 University of Kansas (Harris & Wilkus)
 University of Kentucky (Gabay & Slis)
 University of Kentucky (Rimpson & Stockstill)
 University of Michigan (Esmailzadeh & Shetty)
 University of Minnesota (Haber-Fawcett & Usenov)
 University of Minnesota (Parrish & Wells)
 University of North Texas (Jones & Wofford)
 University of Northern Iowa (Doyle & Van Buren)
 University of Oklahoma (Asbury & Toro)
 University of Oklahoma (Smith & Waheed)
 University of Southern California (Bhadani & Rhman)
 University of Southern California (Bradley & Reese)
 University of Texas, Austin (Anderson & Feinstein)
 University of Texas, Austin (Naman & Stevenson)
 University of Texas, Dallas (Hale & Ravi)
 University of Texas, Dallas (Karchmer & Penumetcha)
 University of Wyoming (Campbell & Hawley)
 Wake Forest University (Leverett & Sencion)
 Western Kentucky University (Carter & Fournier)
 Wichita State University (Molina Chavez & Griffith)



Larmon & Walker Trophies



George Lee, keynote speaker



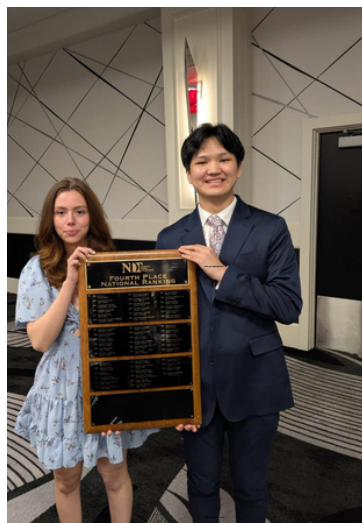
NDT Final Round watches

First-Round At-Large Recipients

Third to eleventh place



3rd, Dartmouth
Holland Bald & Nora Cai



4th, Michigan
Jiyeon Park & Eleanor Barrett



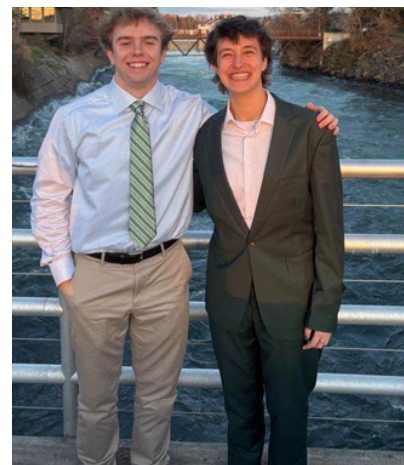
5th, Binghamton
Jeremiah Cohn & E. T. Louis



6th, Kentucky
Jared Adams & Lauren McBlain



7th, Northwestern
Veonica Rubin & Akash Deo



8th, Michigan State
Stephen Lewis & Joanna Gusis



9th, Macalester
Will Kochel & Sam Price



10th, Emory
Coralynn Yang & Lucas Lobo

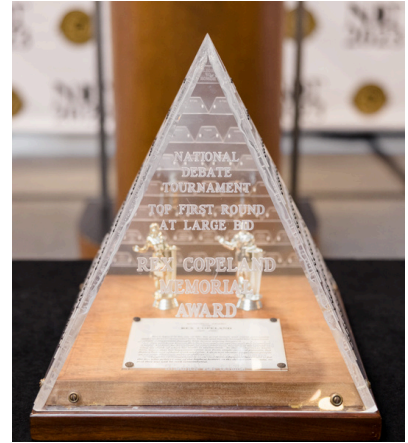


11th, Long Beach
Daniel Medina & Curtis Oretaga

79th National Debate Tournament

Elimination Round Seeding

1. Kansas MR(Marshall & Revare)	7-1	21 ballots
2. Emory GH (Gallagher & Hecht)	7-1	20 ballots
3. Kansas LS (Larson & Schultz)	7-1	19 ballots
4. Michigan (Barrett & Park)	7-1	19 ballots
5. Macalester (Price & Kochel)	7-1	18 ballots
6. Georgetown (Cowan & Sayers)	7-1	18 ballots
7. Binghamton (T. Louis & Cohn)	6-2	19 ballots
8. Kentucky (Adam & McBlain)	6-2	18 ballots
9. Wake Forest (Bressler & Mojica)	6-2	18 ballots
10. Michigan (Esmailzadeh & Shetty)	6-2	16 ballots
11. Northwestern (Deo & Rubin)	6-2	15 ballots
12. New York University (Makinde & Saigal)	5-3	18 ballots
13. Dartmouth (Bald & Cai)	5-3	17 ballots
14. Iowa (Anderson McElligott & Parfenoff)	5-3	16 ballots
15. Emory (Lobo & Yang)	5-3	16 ballots
16. Michigan (Shah & Shih)	5-3	16 ballots
17. Kansas (Harris & Wilkus)	5-3	16 ballots
18. UC Berkeley (Menotti & Reichel)	5-3	16 ballots
19. CSU Long Beach (Ortega & Medina)	5-3	15 ballots
20. Wake Forest (Leverett & Sencion)	5-3	15 ballots
21. West Georgia (Dal Pra & Keller)	5-3	15 ballots
22. Michigan State (Miklovis & Montford)	5-3	14 ballots
23. Kentucky (Gabay & Slish)	5-3	15 ballots
24. Northwestern (Arney & Lundberg)	5-3	15 ballots
25. Northwestern (Pacconi & Souchet)	5-3	14 ballots
26. Michigan State (Gusis & Lewis)	5-3	13 ballots
27. George Mason (Davis & Fuchs)	5-3	13 ballots
28. Liberty (Cunningham & Layton)	5-3	12 ballots



The Rex Copeland Award is presented to the top-ranked team in the first-round at-large balloting

Speaker Awards

1. Graham Revare, University of Kansas
2. Daniel Gallagher, Emory University
3. Connelly Cowan, Georgetown University
4. Eli T. Louis, Binghamton University
5. John Marshall, University of Kansas
6. Rose Larson, University of Kansas
7. Curtis Ortega, California State, Long Beach
8. Jiyeon Park, University of Michigan
9. Margaret Hecht, Emory University
10. Sam Price, Macalester University
11. Jeremiah Cohn, Binghamton University
12. Eleanor Barrett, University of Michigan
13. Luna Schultz, University of Kansas
14. Jared Adam, University of Kentucky
15. Will Kochel, Macalester University
16. Holland Bald, Dartmouth College
17. Veronica Rubin, Northwestern University
18. Daniel Medina, California State, Long Beach
19. Spencer Anderson, University of Iowa
20. Akash Deo, Northwestern University
21. Nora Cai, Dartmouth College
22. Jonna Gusis, Michigan State
23. Lauren McBlain, University of Kentucky
24. Conner Shih, University of Michigan
25. Gene Bressler, Wake Forest University



The Ross K. Smith Award is presented to the top speaker at the National Debate Tournament

Ross K. Smith Top Speaker Award

Graham Revare wins top speaker

Graham Revare, a senior at the University of Kansas, was named the top individual speaker at the 79th NDT. Daniel Gallagher of Emory received second place speaker honors.

Revare became the fourth Kansas debater to win the top speaker award, joining Azja Butler (2021), Jacob Hegna (2019), and Hubert Bell (1955).

That a Kansas debater would win the top speaker award was not surprising. Of the eight major tournaments that were held during the 2024-25 season, Kansas debaters won top speaker at six of them. Revare was top speaker at the Kentucky Round Robin and the Texas Open. His partner, John Marshall, was top speaker at Northwestern, Kentucky, Georgetown and the Dartmouth Round Robin.

The two tournaments where non-Kansas debaters won top speaker honors were Harvard (Daniel Gallagher) and Wake (Eli T. Louis).

During the year, Revare never earned lower than a 5th place speaker, which he received at Georgetown. At his other tournaments, he won second place speaker twice (Kentucky and Harvard) and third place speaker three times (Northwestern, Wake Forest and Dartmouth Round Robin).

Revare enjoyed stupendous success debating at the NDT. He qualified to the NDT four times: 2025, 2024, 2022, 2021. He received three first-round at-large bids with three different partners. He earned a unanimous Copeland award this year with John Marshall. In 2021, Revare & Nate Martin received a 4th place ranking in the first-round at-large voting. And in 2024, Revare with William Soper earned a 9th place first-round at-large ranking.

At the 2025 NDT, Revare and his partner, John Marshall, won 7 debates with 21 ballots, earning them the top seed. During the preliminary round, they defeated the University of Minnesota, Liberty University, the University of Kentucky, the University of West Georgia, the University of Texas-Dallas, Michigan State University and Binghamton University. Their only loss was to Emory (Gallagher & Hecht) in a split decision.

Revare advanced to the elimination rounds in all four years, including advancing to two final rounds (2025 & 2024), the quarterfinals (2021) and the double-octo finals (2022).

Along with his top speaker award, Revare has also been awarded 8th place speaker honors in the 2024 NDT and 12th place speaker honors in the 2021 NDT.

Revare is from Prairie Village, Kansas, and he debated in high school at Shawnee Mission East. He graduated from Kansas with a degree in political science and plans to pursue being a college debate coach.

Revare is coached by Dr. Scott Harris, Dr. Brett Bricker, Azja Butler, Allie Chase, Ned Gidley, Derrick Hilligoss, Jesse Smith, and Alaina Walberg.



Graham Revare holding the
Ross K. Smith first speaker
place trophy



Daniel Gallagher, 2nd place
speaker

Kelli L. Sager receives the Tribe Distinguished Alumni Award for 2025

The 2025 recipient of the Laurence Tribe Distinguished Alumni Award is Kelli Sager. Nine Abad, the student representative to the NDT Board of Trustees from the University of Houston, made the presentation speech. Abad praised Sager for her exemplary debate career at USC and West Georgia and for her distinguished career as an attorney specializing in media, entertainment, and First Amendment law.

Sager qualified for the NDT twice for USC and once with West Georgia. In 1979, Sager qualified as a sophomore debating with Rosemary Jackovic. Debating with Rick Rollino in her junior year, she received a first-round at-large bid to the NDT and reached the quarterfinals in 1980.

In her senior year, Sager transferred to West Georgia and debated with Paul Weathington. During the 1980-1981 debate season, Sager & Weathington achieved spectacular success, winning two tournaments (University of Kentucky and Middle Tennessee) and reaching the finals of Wake, Emory, and Northwestern. Their outstanding yearlong performance earned them a third-place ranking in the first-round at-large rankings.

At the 1981 NDT, Sager & Weathington won six debates with 15 ballots and lost in the quarterfinals to the top seed from Dartmouth (Cy Smith & Mark Weinhardt). Sager received 8th place speaker honors.

After graduating from West Georgia, Sager earned a JD degree from the University of Utah. She began her legal career as an associate at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, where she worked for 9 years.

In April 1994, Sager joined the Los Angeles law firm of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, where she became a partner. Sager achieved national notoriety as a champion for allowing cameras in the courtroom in several high-profile cases.

During the O.J. Simpson trial from 1994 to 1995, she was instrumental in persuading Judge Lance Ito to allow cameras in the courtroom. Representing the *New York Times* and more than a dozen other media organizations, Sager convinced Judge Ito that televising the trial was vital for reassuring the public that the process was fair and that the verdict was supported by the evidence.

Sager is nationally recognized as one of the preeminent First Amendment lawyers in the United States. *The Hollywood Reporter* called Sager "a warrior for the First Amendment and for the fourth estate's right to access information." She has argued dozens of times in federal and state appellate courts, including many times in the California Supreme Court and 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Her practice encompasses all areas of media and entertainment litigation, including defamation, privacy, idea submission, access, prior restraint, shield laws, copyright and trademark law, and Internet law.

She has received countless accolades for her legal expertise. In the past year, she was honored with the Legal Excellence Award by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*, named one of the Top 100 lawyers in California by *The Daily Journal*, recognized by *U.S. News* and *Best Lawyers* as Los Angeles "Lawyer of the Year" in both First Amendment Law and First Amendment Litigation, identified as one of the top 50 female litigators in the United States by the *National Journal*, and anointed to the *Hollywood Reporter's* 2024 list of "Legal Legends."

Sager is one of only two lawyers in the country—along with David Wright Tremaine's Elizabeth McNamara—to be recognized by Chambers USA as a Star Attorney in First Amendment Litigation (Nationwide). She is also the first woman to have received the "Excellence in Advocacy" award from the Beverly Hills Bar Association.

Her alma mater, The University of Utah Law School, made Sager their distinguished alumna-in-residence for 2001-2002

Sager has served in leadership roles in virtually every media-related bar association and nonprofit, including chairing the ABA Forum on Communications Law, the IBA's Media Committee, and the Media Law Resource Center Defense Counsel Section.



Laurence H. Tribe

Laurence H. Tribe Distinguished Alumni Award

The Board of Trustees established the Laurence H. Tribe Distinguished Alumni Award to honor NDT alumni who have achieved extraordinary career accomplishments and named the award after Professor Laurence Tribe, who was the first recipient.



Sophia Dal Pra, Kelli Sager & Jordan Keller

Previous winners of the Tribe award

- 2019 Laurence Tribe, Harvard Law School
- 2020 Ouita Michel, award winning chef
- 2021 Erwin Chemerinsky, Berkeley Law Dean
- 2022 David Sutherland, International Care Ministries
- 2023 John D. Graham, Indiana Professor
- 2024, John P. Dolan, Trial Lawyer

David Cram Helwich receives the George W. Ziegelmueller Award for 2025

Dr. David Cram Helwich, a Senior Lecturer and the Director of Forensics at the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities), is the 2025 recipient of the Ziegelmueller award.

Dr. Cate Palczewski--a member of the NDT Board of Trustees, a former Northwestern debater and a professor at the University of Northern Iowa--delivered the presentation speech. Palczewski, noted that the Ziegelmueller award recognizes a debate coach who has a distinguished record as a teacher and scholar in the communication profession, while also achieving competitive success at the NDT.

Palczewski began by recognizing Helwich's record of producing extensive and important scholarship. She noted that his vita spans twelve pages and his research explores areas concerning nuclear weapons policy, transatlantic diplomacy, presidential rhetoric, and political campaigns.

Palczewski also touched on Helwich's debate scholarship, noting, that he along with Dr. Kelly Young of Wayne State, organized the AFA's 4th developmental conference on debate, which produced a scholarly volume, and co-edited with Young, *Reimagining the Future of Intercollegiate Debate: Pedagogy, Practice, and Sustainability*. She then praised Helwich for his excellence at a teacher of debate. She recognized that he was the recipient of coach of the year awards from the ADA in 2018 and from the NDT in 2019.

Helwich has amassed an extraordinary record of excellence at the NDT while the Director of Debate at Minnesota. He has qualified twenty-nine teams to the NDT over 17 consecutive seasons (2009 to 2025). Moreover, his teams have regularly advanced to the NDT elimination rounds, including reaching the semifinals in 2015 (Crunkilton & Ehrlich), the quarterfinals in 2022 (Rao & Phoenix-Flood), the octofinals in 2021 (Ferguson & Rao), and the double-octo finals in 2013, 2014, and 2018.

Helwich was commended in his nomination letters, according to Palczewski, for affording debate opportunities to a broad range of students because he believes in the power of debate to empower everyone. This is perfectly demonstrated in Minnesota competing students of all experience levels in novice and junior varsity divisions.

Palczewski concluded with a recitation of his numerous leadership contributions, including serving on the topic committee, heading the NDT appeals committee, and hosting the 2019 NDT tournament at Minnesota.

Previous winners of the George W. Ziegelmueller Award

1999 George Ziegelmueller, Wayne State University	2011 Gordon Stables, University of Southern California
2000 Allan Loudon, Wake Forest University	2012 Glen Frappier, Gonzaga
2001 Chester Gibson, West Georgia & Ken Strange, Dartmouth College	2013 Ryan Galloway, Samford University
2002 Herb James, Dartmouth College & Karla Leeper, Baylor University	2014 Mike Davis, James Madison University
2003 Donn Parson, Univ. of Kansas & Tuna Snider, University of Vermont	2015 Jarrod Atchison, Wake Forest University
2004 Cate Palczewski, University of Northern Iowa	2016 William Mosley Jensen, Trinity University
2005 William Southworth, University of Redlands	2017 Michael Hester, West Georgia
2006 Scott Harris, University of Kansas	2018 Jacob Thompson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2007 Scott Deatherage, Northwestern University	2019 Joe Schatz, Binghamton University
2008 Sarah T. Partlow Lefevre, Idaho State University	2020 Allison Harper, Emory University
2009 Ross Smith, Wake Forest University	2021 Eric Morris, Southwest Missouri State
2010 Tim O'Donnell, University of Mary Washington	2022 Amber Kelsie, Wake Forest University
	2023 Brett Bricker, University of Kansas
	2024 Edward Panetta, University of Georgia

George W. Ziegelmueller Award

Wayne State alumni established The George Ziegelmueller Award in 1999 to honor their beloved and immensely successful Director of Debate (1957 to 2006), who made countless contributions to the forensics community, including serving as AFA president and the editor of the *Journal of the American Forensic Association* (now called *Argumentation & Advocacy*).

Recipients of the award must demonstrate excellence in teaching, scholarship, and coaching debate.



George W. Ziegelmueller



David Cram Helwich

Brendon H. Bankey receives the Lucy M. Keele Service Award for 2025

Dr. Brendon H. Bankey, the Director of Debate and a lecturer in the Moody College of Communication at the University of Texas (Austin), is the 2025 recipient of the Lucy M. Keele Award for Service.

Leah Schultz, NDT Board of Trustees member and a Senior Litigation Associate at Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP, made the presentation.

Schultz lauded Bankey for providing wide-ranging service to the forensic community, including sponsoring debate tournaments and holding numerous leadership positions in CEDA and NDT. Schultz specifically recognized Bankey's superb hosting of the Texas Open debate tournament. Held in February, it is the largest tournament of the spring semester. In 2025, the Texas Open had 131 teams competing in open, junior varsity, and novice divisions.

Despite its large size, the Texas Open is run efficiently and provides splendid hospitality. Participants receive nutritious and tasty meals. And the tournament gives out distinctive awards, including Texas belt buckles for speaker awards.

In addition to hosting his own tournament, Schultz noted that Bankey regularly assists with the administration of other large college tournaments, such as those held at Navy and Georgetown.

Shultz also commended Bankey for taking on leadership positions in CEDA and NDT. From 2021 to 2024, Bankey served as an executive officer of CEDA: 2nd Vice President, 2021-22; First Vice President, 2022-23; and President, 2023-24. As a CEDA officer, Bankey became a voting member of the Topic Selection Committee, where he contributed extensive research and helped formulate the wordings for the resolutions appearing on the topic ballot. Additional duties that Bankey assumed as CEDA president included chairing the National Tournament Committee, the Executive Council, and the annual business meeting. Bankey's leadership role in CEDA continues today as the current Southwest Representative.

Since the fall of 2022, Bankey has served as the District 3 representative to the NDT Committee, the governing body that establishes the rules for the operation of the NDT. On the NDT Committee, Bankey has served as a member of the Appeals Committee, the Media Coverage Subcommittee, and the Adjudication of Ethics Challenges group.

Previous winners of the Lucy M. Keele Service Award

1996 Donn Parson, University of Kansas
1997 Brett O'Donnell, Liberty University
1998 Melissa Wade, Emory & Bill Newnam, Emory
1999 George Ziegelmueller, Wayne State University
2000 Bill Balthrop, University of North Carolina
2001 Rich Edwards, Baylor University
2002 Pat Ganer, Cypress College
2003 Frank Harrison, Trinity University
2004 Will Baker, New York University
2005 Allan Loudon, Wake Forest University
2006 David Zarefsky, Northwestern University
2007 Stefan Bauschard, Lakeland Schools, NY
2008 Bill Southworth, University of Redlands
2009 Jon Brusckhe, California State University, Fullerton
2010 Jim Hanson & Aaron Hardy, Whitman College
2011 Dallas Perkins, Harvard University

2012 Gary Larson, Wheaton College
2013 Tim O'Donnell, University of Mary Washington
2014 Sarah Partlow Lefevre, Idaho State University
2015 John Fritch, Missouri State University
2016 David Hingstman, University of Iowa
2017 Michael Davis, James Madison University
2018 Arnie Madsen, University of Northern Iowa & Cate Palczewski, Univ. of Northern Iowa
2019 Adrienne Brovero, University of Mary Washington
2020 John Katsulas, Boston College
2021 Matthew Vega, University of Missouri, Kansas City
2022 David Cram Helwich, University of Minnesota
2023 Danielle O'Gorman, U.S. Naval Academy
2024 Sherry Hall, University of Houston

Lucy M. Keele Service Award

The NDT Board of Trustees established the Lucy M. Keele Service Award in 1996 to honor the former Director of Debate at CSU Fullerton who was a longstanding member of the Board. The award recognizes an individual who has provided outstanding service to the debate community.



Lucy M. Keele



Brandon Bankey

Mikaela Malsin receives the Ross K. Smith Coach of the Year Award for 2025

This year's recipient of the Ross K. Smith Coaching Award is Dr. Mikaela Malsin, the Director of Debate at Emory University.

Aaron Kall, Board of Trustees member, Director of Debate at The University of Michigan, and recipient of this Coach of the Year Award in 2023, made the presentation speech.

In his remarks, Kall explained that the Coach of the Year Award recipients must embody three characteristics: 1) a consistent record of fielding nationally competitive teams, 2) a demonstrated record as a top judge, and 3) a commitment to providing service to the larger debate community.

Kall praised Malsin's commitment to the debate community and pointed to her hosting the 2024 NDT at Emory. Hosting the NDT is a colossal undertaking, Kall explained, and Malsin made everyone feel welcome and provided exceptional hospitality.

Additionally, Kall gave several examples of Malsin supporting the larger debate community. He noted that Malsin regularly enters her teams in regional tournaments and assists in running many of them. In last year's District 7 qualifying tournament, she volunteered to judge part of the University of Pennsylvania's commitment because it was a student-run program without a judge.

Malsin also holds important leadership positions in the NDT and ADA. She is the AFA southern representative to the NDT Committee. She serves on the Appeals and Alumni Committees and is a member of the working groups dealing with how to resolve ethics challenges and how to promote program sustainability. As the Vice President of the ADA, Malsin has organized forensic panels at the NCA convention and chairs the Appeals Committee.

Kall cited evidence that over the past four years, Malsin was among the five mostly highly-rated critics at the Texas Open and among the ten mostly highly-rated critics at Northwestern's Owen Coon Season Opener and the National Debate Tournament. She also consistently judges in the late elimination rounds at tournaments and served as a final round judge at the 2023 NDT.

On the final criteria, competitive success, Kall explained that Malsin has achieved phenomenal competitive success as Georgetown's Director of Debate (Fall 2017 to Spring 2021) and Emory (Fall 2021 to 2025).

From 2018 to 2025, Malsin qualified 19 teams to the NDT, with her teams advancing to the elimination rounds in every year except for 2020 when the NDT was cancelled. Her accomplishments as a coach at the NDT include a Georgetown team in the 2018 finals (David Bernstein & Natalie Knez) and three Emory teams in the semi-finals in 2023 (Giampetruzzi & Kessler) and 2024 (Kessler & Rajagopal; Hecht & Gallagher).

Malsin's teams have received nine first-round at-large bids to the NDT. At Emory, her teams have never ranked lower than 3rd in the first-round at-large voting, including winning the Copeland in 2024 (Kessler & Rajagopal).

Malsin has coached four top speakers at the NDT, including Natalie Knez from Georgetown in 2018 and three consecutive Emory debaters in 2022 (Eugenia Giampetruzzi), 2023 (Eugenia Giampetruzzi), and 2024 (Grace Kessler).

While at Emory, Malsin's teams have won numerous tournaments, including Northwestern (2022), The Dartmouth Round Robin (2022), Harvard (2023), Georgetown (2023), Wake Forest (2023), Navy (2024), Texas (2023 & 2024), Long Beach (2024), Kentucky (2025), and The Kentucky Round Robin (2025).

Ross K. Smith Coach of the Year Award

Emory presented the first Coach of the Year Award in 1967, followed by the University of South Carolina, and eventually Wake. The NDT assumed responsibility for the award in 2011 and named it after Ross K. Smith.

As the coach of Wake, Smith's teams won the NDT in 1997 and 2008. He also promoted many debate innovations, such as lengthening the rebuttal speeches to six minutes.



Ross K. Smith



Aaron Kall & Mikaela Malsin

Previous winners of the Ross K. Smith Coach of the Year Award



Annabel Hagood



Herbert James



George Zieglemueller



John Lynch

- 1967 Annabel Hagood, University of Alabama
- 1968 Herbert James, Dartmouth College
- 1969 George Zieglemueller, Wayne State University
- 1970 John Lynch, Saint Anselm College
- 1971 James Unger, Georgetown University
- 1972 David Zarefsky, Northwestern University
- 1973 Thomas Kane, University of Pittsburgh
- 1974 Daniel Bozik, Augustana College (Illinois)
- 1975 Chester Gibson, College of West Georgia
- 1976 Bill Henderson, University of Northern Iowa
- 1977 Cully Clark, University of Alabama
- 1978 No award
- 1979 Tim Browning, University of Arizona
- 1980 Donn Parson, University of Kansas
- 1981 J.W. Patterson, University of Kentucky
- 1982 Ken Strange, Dartmouth
- 1983 Tim Hynes, University of Louisville
- 1984 Walter Ulrich, Vanderbilt University
- 1985 William Balthrop, University of North Carolina
- 1986 Robin Rowland, Baylor University & David Hingstman, Baylor University
- 1987 Jeff Bile, Southern Illinois University
- 1988 Allan Loudon, Wake Forest University
- 1989 Daryl Scott, Gonzaga University
- 1990 Dallas Perkins, Jr., Harvard University
- 1991 Melissa Wade, Emory University
- 1992 Glen Strickland, Emporia State University
- 1993 Alfred Snider, University of Vermont
- 1994 David Berube, University of South Carolina
- 1995 Todd Graham, Northwestern State
- 1996 Doug Duke, University of Central Oklahoma
- 1997 Ross Smith, Wake Forest University
- 1998 Bill Newman, Emory University
- 1999 Carrie Crenshaw, University of Alabama
- 2000 Will Repko, Michigan State University
- 2001 Joel Rollins, University of Texas, Austin
- 2002 Scott Deatherage, Northwestern University
- 2003 Jim Hanson, Whitman College
- 2004 Jon Bruschke, California State University, Fullerton
- 2005 Sherry Hall, Harvard University
- 2006 Scott Harris, University of Kansas
- 2007 Edward Panetta, University of Georgia
- 2008 Eric Morris, Missouri State University
- 2009 Dave Arnett, University of California, Berkeley
- 2010 Roger Solt, University of Kentucky
- 2011 Adrienne Brovero, University of Mary Washington
- 2012 Daniel Fitzmier, Northwestern University
- 2013 Sam Maurer, Emporia State University
- 2014 David Heidt, University of Michigan
- 2015 Ed Lee, Emory University
- 2016 Jonathan Paul, Georgetown University
- 2017 Michael Hester, University of West Georgia
- 2018 David Cram Helwich, University of Minnesota
- 2019 No award
- 2020 No award
- 2021 Jacob Thompson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2022 John Turner, Dartmouth College
- 2023 Aaron Kall, University of Michigan
- 2024 Deven Cooper, California State, Long Beach

The 3rd National Debate Tournament (1949)

The 3rd National Debate Tournament (NDT) took place from April 21 to 23, 1949. It used the same method for selecting the debate teams as the prior two NDTs. Thirty-two of the participants were invited by a committee or they qualified based upon their performance at a district tournament. West Point, as the host, and the prior year's NDT winner, North Texas, received automatic invitations, making a field of thirty-four debate teams.

Three major changes were made to the operation of the tournament. The first change expanded the number of preliminary rounds from 5 to 8. This was a positive reform. It ensured that all teams had the same number of affirmative and negative debates. More importantly, it expanded the number of power-matched debates from 1 to 5. This minimized the skews created by the rule requiring that schools were not allowed to be paired against others schools within 500 miles of another during the 4 preset debates. This change has stood the test of time, and every NDT has prescribed having 8 preliminary rounds.

Unfortunately, the other two changes were disastrous. The 1949 NDT reduced the number of teams advancing to the elimination rounds from 16 to 8. It is a fair speculation that this was done to make up the lost time in the schedule caused by adding the three extra preliminary rounds. However, clearing only 8 teams in a field of 34 teams meant that only 24% were eligible. This resulted in 7 teams with 5-3 records (Augustana College, Champlain College, DePauw University, Montana State, St. Mary's College, U.S. Military Academy, and the University of Arizona) not qualifying for the elimination rounds. This was a failed experiment that would never be repeated.

The third change adopted by the West Point Council for the 1949 NDT involved selecting a new debate topic. For the 1948-49 academic year, the national topic was, "Resolved: That the federal government should adopt a policy of equalizing educational opportunity in tax-supported schools by means of annual grants." In January of 1949, Lt. Col. Chester L. Johnson, the Officer-in-Charge of the Debate Council, wrote to the regional chairpersons and expressed his opinion that there was a fifty percent chance that the U.S. Congress would pass legislation and make the topic noninherent.

In his letter, Lieutenant Colonel Johnson advocated replacing the education topic with either a topic requiring prepaid medical insurance or mandating government ownership of the steel industry. After soliciting advice from the regional committees, West Point announced in early February that the topic to be used at the 1949 National Tournament would be government-provided health insurance.

This decision to change the topic was misguided. Congress never passed any legislation making changes to education policy. With the exception of the district qualifying tournaments, every tournament held in March and April of 1949 debated the education topic. Changing the topic so late in the game harmed the competitive quality of the NDT.

A record six colleges declined their invitation to the 1949 NDT. At least two of the six, the University of Florida and the University of South Carolina, admitted they did not have the time or interest to learn a new topic. The withdrawal of these two colleges significantly diminished the quality of the competition.

The University of Florida had one of the best debate teams that year. Walter Apfelbaum & Jordan Bittel won three tournaments in the Spring of 1949: the Southeastern debate tournament in Atlanta at Agnes Scott in March; the Grand Western Tournament at Northwestern in February; and the Georgetown University Tournament during April 8-10.

The University of South Carolina also had a very good team. Jim Simmons & Melton Kligman won the Southern Debate Tournament at the University of the South during December 6-8, 1948. Simmons & Kligman were one of four teams with 8-0 records at The Pi Kappa Delta tournament at Bradley in Peoria, Illinois, during April 9-14, 1949.

Other schools may have been deterred from competing due to the change in topic but were more diplomatic in their explanations. Purdue, for example, indicated that their senior debaters wanted to concentrate on their studies. It is not implausible to believe that forcing them to learn a new topic discouraged them from attending the NDT.

The withdrawal of the Purdue seniors (Richard Kunkel & Paul Blekking) was a big loss, as they were rated as the best team in District V by the coach's poll. During the year, Purdue won 2 tournaments, including the Tau Kappa Alpha (April 1-2, 1949), finished second in two tournaments (DePauw & DSR-TKA) and placed third in the Western Conference Debate Tournament.

New Mexico, in declining their West Point bid, indicated that a lack of funds and an inability to miss their classes, prevented them from competing.

The Southern Louisiana Institute declined their bid because they claimed the NDT conflicted with attending the Pi Kappa Delta tournament during April 11-14. Of course, that tournament was more than two weeks prior to the NDT. Many colleges, including Louisiana, Georgetown College and Baylor, competed at both the Pi Kappa Delta Tournament and the NDT.

The sixth college to decline the invitation, Dennison, explained that the NDT conflicted with their hosting the Ohio Freshmen Debate Tournament on their campus.

Given that no prior NDT experienced such a mass withdrawal of teams, it is likely that the change in topic was a significant factor.



West Point
Lt. Col. Chester L. Johnson giving some last-minute advice to cadet William R. McDowell



Arizona preparing for the NDT
L to R: Henry A. Kiker, W. Arthur Cable (coach) & Vernon Meyers



Arlen Specter (former US Senator) debating for UPenn

With 8 preliminary debates, West Point officials adjusted the schedule for 1949. Three preliminary rounds, which were preset, were held on Thursday, April 21. Power-matched debate rounds 4 to 7 were held on Friday, April 22. The final preliminary round 8 (also power-matched) was held on Saturday, April 23, followed by the quarter-finals, semi-finals, and final round.

The 1949 NDT used single judge panels during the preliminary rounds. Beginning with the elimination rounds, panels with five judges were used in the quarter-finals and semi-finals.

Of the 68 students competing at the 1949 NDT, only two were female: LaVerne Buffum from Ottawa and Jean Eslinger from Pepperdine College. Like most females at that time, Buffum and Eslinger debated mostly in women only tournaments. For the NDT, they were each paired with the best male debater from their squads.

The Preliminary Rounds

At the 3rd National Debate Tournament (NDT), the University of Alabama defeated Baylor University to become the NDT champion of 1949. The debate topic for the 1949 NDT was, "Resolved: That the Federal Government should adopt a system of prepaid medical insurance."

The University of Alabama team of Mitchell G. Lattof and Oscar L. Newton, were both juniors. This was their first appearance at the NDT. Lattof & Newton were members of the highly successful Capstone Debating Society. Alabama competed mostly at regional tournaments in the south, with the exception of attending the Purdue tournament.

During the 1948-49 academic year, Alabama won five debate tournaments and placed second in three. Newton & Latoof won the Tau Kappa Alpha tournament held in Jackson, Mississippi during November 1948. Oscar Newton (debating with Tarver Roundtree) won the Millsaps tournament in Mississippi during December 11-12, 1948.

Alabama teams finished second at the Southern Speech Association Tournament held at Baylor in Waco, TX during April 5-8, as well as second at the Purdue tournament during November 4-5, 1948. However, information is unavailable as to which Alabama debaters competed at these tournaments.

During the preliminary rounds of the 1949 NDT, Lattof & Newton achieved a 7-1 record. They defeated Augustana (5-3), Louisiana College (3-5), Montana (5-3), University of Pennsylvania (6-2), St. Mary's, (5-3), Willamette (3-5) and an unknown team. Their only loss came against the University of Kansas (6-2). Alabama was the top-seeded team and the only team with seven wins.

The Baylor University team who advanced to the final round, Joseph L. Allbritton & Thomas F. Webb, were both seniors. Joe Allbritton competed at the 1948 NDT with Bill Allcorn. This was the first NDT for Tom Webb.

Baylor traveled mostly to regional tournaments in Texas and Oklahoma, with the exception of attending the Pi Kappa Delta tournament in Peoria, Illinois.

Allbritton & Webb were the top-seeded team representing District III at the NDT. During the 1948-49 debate season, they won three tournaments (Piney Woods Debate Tournament at Austin College, February 1949; West Texas Debate Tournament at Abilene, February 1949; and South West Conference Debate Tournament at U of Texas, December 1948) and placed second at one (East Central State Teacher's College at Ada, Oklahoma in December 1948).

The journey to the NDT for Baylor began 18 days before the tournament began. Traveling in a new Hudson automobile purchased by Joe Allbritton, Glenn Capp, along with the NDT team and two female debaters (Betsy Ross & Margaret Welsh), headed north and made several stops to have practice debates against other colleges including against Northwestern.

During April 11-14, the Baylor men and women debated at the Pi Kappa Delta Tournament at Bradley. Since Pi Kappa Delta used the education topic, the tournament did not provide valuable practice for Baylor debating at the NDT. Nevertheless, Allbritton & Webb performed well. They were 6-2 and received a rating of excellent. The Pi Kappa Delta tournament did not have any elimination rounds.

At the 1949 NDT, Allbritton & Webb were 5-3 during the preliminary rounds. They defeated the University of Kansas (5-3), Navy (3-5), Willamette (3-5), George Washington (5-3), and an unknown team. Baylor's three losses were to Vermont (6-2), University of Pennsylvania (6-2), and Notre Dame (6-2). With a 5-3 record, Baylor was the 7th seed.



St. Olaf NDT debaters doing some last-minute research
L to R: John Kildahl & Waldo Johnson



Northwestern: Great Lakes Champion team, L to R
James Werner, Art Davis, James McBath (coach), Dean Olds &
Charles Schnier

Road to the NDT Finals: The Elimination Rounds

After the conclusion of round eight, the three elimination rounds for the 1949 NDT were held on Saturday, April 23rd.

To reach the final round of the 1949 NDT, Alabama defeated the 8th seed from George Washington in the quarterfinals and the 2nd seed from Ottawa in the semifinals.

In the quarterfinals, Alabama debated against the George Washington team of Henry C. Krebs and Charles E. Lilien. As members of the Colonial Forensic Society, Krebs & Lilien were a formidable team. Krebs won 9th place speaker honors at the 1949 NDT. George Washington qualified for the NDT by finishing among the top four teams at the qualifying tournament held at Temple.

Krebs & Lilien won two tournaments during the 1948-49 season. In December 1948, Krebs & Lilien won the Old Dominion Tournament held in Richmond Virginia, where Krebs won top speaker honors.

A more impressive triumph by Krebs & Lilien was winning the Boston University Tournament held in February of 1949. Austin J. Freeley, the Director of Debate at B.U., recruited twenty schools to debate at his tournament, including many who would qualify for the NDT. Some of the more prominent teams competing at B.U. were the University of Pennsylvania, Navy, Notre Dame, Yale, and West Point. In the finals, George Washington defeated Notre Dame (Bill Carey & Frank Finn) and Krebs won top speaker honors.

In the quarterfinals, Alabama debated on the affirmative against George Washington. The 8th seed gave Alabama all they could handle and came close to derailing them. In a 3-2 decision, Alabama defeated Krebs & Lilien.

Alabama next faced Ottawa University in the semifinals. Ottawa is a private Baptist school, located in Ottawa Kansas with fewer than 1,000 students. The Ottawa team of LaVerne Buffum & Robert Logan were selected for debating at the NDT by the District 4 regional committee. Buffum was a senior and Logan was a freshman.

During the 1948-49 debate season, LaVerne Buffum debated with Jean Anne Walker, Bob Logan, and David Blair. Her best performance with Walker took place at the Pi Kappa Delta tournament, where Buffum & Walker were 6-2 and received an excellent rating. Logan & Richard Chartier were 4-4 at the PKD.

In December 1948, Bob Logan debating with Chartier reached the semifinals at the Southwest Tournament held in Winfield, Kansas. Buffum debating with Blair went 2-2 at the tournament. In late February, Buffum, debating with Bob Logan at the Inter-Collegiate Debate and Discussion Conference held in Lincoln, Nebraska, were 4-0.

The Ottawa team was the least accomplished of the teams making the elimination rounds and their performance at the 1949 NDT was unexpected.

At the 1949 NDT, Buffum & Logan won six debates against the University of Chicago (2-6), DePauw (5-3), Navy (3-5), San Diego State (2-6), North Texas State (4-4), and Stanford University (3-5). Their two losses were to the University of Vermont (6-2) and Georgetown College (3-5). With a 6-2 record, Buffum & Logan were the 2nd seed.

Despite not having defeated any teams who advanced to the elimination rounds, Buffum & Logan convincingly defeated the 5th seed from the University of Pennsylvania (Saul D. Kronnet & Arlen Specter) in the quarterfinals on a 4-1 decision.

In the semifinals, Alabama debated on the negative against Ottawa. In a close 3-2 decision, Alabama defeated the Ottawa Braves and advanced to the final round. This would be the only appearance by Ottawa at the NDT.

Baylor's path to the final round involved defeating the 3rd seed from Notre Dame and the 4th seed from the University of Vermont.

In the quarterfinals, Baylor met the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame: Bill Carey and Frank Finn. Of all the teams at the NDT, Carey and Finn had the most experience debating at West Point. Frank Finn reached the semifinals of the 1947 NDT (debating with Tim Kelley) and qualified for the 1948 NDT with Bill Carey. He was the only debater in the field who had competed at both the 1947 and 1948 NDTs.

Carey and Finn were a challenging opponent for Baylor. Both Notre Dame debaters received top ten speaker awards at the 1949 NDT: Finn was the 3rd speaker and Carey was the 7th speaker.

In November 1948, Carey & Finn won the Purdue Tournament. In December 1948, Notre Dame tied for first place in the Iowa Invitational Debate Tournament in Iowa City. In February 1949, Carey & Finn advanced to the finals of the Boston University Tournament. In a 4-1 decision, Baylor defeated Notre Dame, and next faced Vermont.



Notre Dame NDT team: L to R: Frank Finn and William Carey



George Washington University
Charles E. Lilien admiring one of his trophies

Elimination Rounds continued

John B. Harrington and Thomas L. Hayes of the University of Vermont were the best team from District 8. Harrington & Hayes qualified for the NDT by winning four of their five debates at the regional district tournament held at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

In February 1949, Vermont won the New England Debate Tournament held at MIT where all the New England schools were in attendance. Harrington & Hayes defeated Tufts in the final round.

Harrington, in particular, was one of the most accomplished debaters. In the 1948 NDT, Harrington won all five of his debates (debating with Guy Page, Jr.) and reached the quarterfinals. Harrington won 12th speaker honors at the 1949 NDT.

During the preliminary rounds of the 1949 NDT, Vermont won six debates. They defeated Augustana (5-3), Ottawa (6-2), North Texas (4-4), San Diego State (2-6), St. Mary's (5-3), and Baylor (5-3).

In the quarterfinals, Vermont defeated the Kansas Jayhawks team of Bill Conboy & Ed Stollenwerck, who were a strong contender to win the NDT. Ed Stollenwerck reached the semifinals of the 1948 NDT and won second place speaker honors at the 1949 NDT. Kansas was the only team that defeated Alabama at the 1949 NDT.

In the semifinals, Baylor, debating on the negative, defeated the Vermont Catamounts in a close 3-2 decision. Baylor avenged their loss to Vermont in round eight and earned an opportunity to win a national championship against the University of Alabama.



Ottawa University Debate Team
L to R: Robert Logan (NDT debater), Jean Walker, Richard Chartier, Bill Busby & LaVerne Buffum (NDT debater)
Seated is Lloyd A. Stafford (coach)



University of Kansas
E.C. Buhler (coach) playing records of famous orators
to improve the speaking of Ed Stollenwerck (second speaker at the NDT)



U of Vermont: New England Debating Champs
L to R: Robert T. Marsh (MIT coach) presenting trophy
to John B. Harrington & Thomas L. Hayes

The 1949 NDT Final Round:

Alabama vs. Baylor

In the final round of the 1949 NDT, Baylor debated on the affirmative. The first affirmative speaker was Thomas Webb, and the second affirmative speaker was Joseph Allbritton. Alabama debated on the negative with Mitchell Lattof doing the first negative and Oscar Newton as the second negative.

In his first affirmative speech, Webb advanced two major arguments. First, he claimed that the unavailability of free medical care to every citizen resulted in the annual deaths of 350,000 individuals. He also argued that worker absenteeism caused by poor health cost the economy \$28 billion.

To support these claims, Webb cited a 1933 report by the Committee on the Cost of Medical Care which found that only one-third of the population was able to purchase adequate health insurance. These findings, Webb argued, were corroborated by a 1948 report by the Federal Security Administration (FSA) and findings by the National Health Assembly. According to Oscar Ewing of the FSA, the National Health Assembly estimated that 80% of the public were unable to purchase adequate health insurance.

The second major argument made in the first affirmative outlined why government-sponsored health insurance was superior to private insurance. Webb made three points. First, he argued that only government-provided health insurance would guarantee coverage to all Americans. Second, he claimed that private insurance does not reimburse patients for the full costs of many medical procedures and medications. Third, he maintained that private insurance was not affordable for many families.

In the first affirmative speech, Baylor never supported any of these claims by directly quoting any evidence. Instead, Webb made references to three sources--1933 Committee on the Cost of Medical Care; Oscar Ewing, Federal Security Administration, 1948; and National Health Assembly, 1948--to support his arguments.

Lattof of Alabama argued in his first negative speech that Baylor exaggerated the extent of the problem and argued further that socializing medicine would produce worse outcomes.

First, he pointed out that the problem of worker absenteeism due to sickness was exaggerated. He directly quoted from a 1942 report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to support this point. Next, he refuted Baylor's argument that lack of health insurance was a significant problem. He quoted evidence from a 1948 Brookings report claiming that most Americans have the means to pay for health insurance if they make it a priority. He dismissed the findings of the 1933 Committee on the Cost of Medical Care as outdated.

After demonstrating the lack of a problem, Lattof advanced numerous objections against government-provided insurance. First, he argued that the cost was prohibitive. He quoted Dr. Paul Holy as estimating the cost to be at least \$15 billion per year. Enacting this program, he warned, would trade-off with other obligations like defense spending and providing foreign aid.

Second, Lattof argued that a government takeover of insurance would harm private sector companies and face strong opposition from doctors. With 9 out of 10 doctors opposing the affirmative plan, Lattof asked how can it possibly succeed?

Third, Lattof claimed that a program of compulsory health insurance would put the U.S. on a path to socialism. He cautioned that U.S. citizens would lose their freedoms. He claimed that England and France, who had enacted socialized medicine, micromanage their workers and their companies. Lattof warned that socialized medicine would degrade the quality of medical care. He further stated it would harm the doctor-patient relationship, and it would dissuade people from wanting to become doctors.

Unlike Baylor, Alabama supported many of their arguments by directly quoting evidence from experts. Lattof quoted evidence eight times during his first negative speech.

Joseph Allbritton began his second affirmative speech by making a joke. Allbritton remarked that the tournament officials never expected him to reach the final round because he could barely see over the podium (Allbritton stood only five feet tall). Nevertheless, he assured the judges that they would be able to hear him, even if they could not see him.

At the outset, Allbritton indicated he would not respond to the negative's objections to government-provided insurance because the affirmative had not yet disclosed its plan. He said the negative was attacking a different plan.

He then proceeded to reestablish the affirmative's harms. Allbritton claimed that Baylor conceded that 350,000 American died needlessly every year due to lack of medical care and that 80% of Americans have inadequate medical insurance.

Allbritton refuted the validity of the Bureau of Labor study claiming there was no evidence of absenteeism because the data from 1942 was atypical as it was gathered during a war year.. He then dismissed the Brookings study, which concluded Americas could pay for insurance if they budgeted for it, as unrealistic. Many poor families, he said, still could not afford to pay for health insurance.

Finally, Allbritton argued the Committee on the Cost of Medical Care survey from 1933 was valid because two-thirds of Americans still lacked insurance. He also asserted that the Brookings study was based on the same 1933 survey.



Augustana NDT debaters holding their first-place trophy from Illinois State

L to R: Martin Holcomb (coach), Robert Sward & Roger Nebergall



Notre Dame: Frank Finn, first from left and William Carey, fourth from left

1949 NDT Final Round continued

Near the end of his speech, Allbritton laid out the details of the affirmative's plan. He said the government program of pre-paid medical insurance would be paid for out of federal income taxes and would be offered to anyone who had paid any taxes. It would be administered by the Federal Security Administration. All doctors would be encouraged to join but would not be forced to do so. He claimed doctors would participate because they would be reimbursed at the same rate as they are now. Like Obamacare, he promised everyone would be free to choose their own doctor.

The workability of this plan, Baylor claimed, was based on the success of a 1930s program enacted by the Farmer's Security Administration. That program provided government loans for purchasing health insurance to farmers in seven counties. Allbritton stated that this program raised health standards, reduced lost work days due to illness, and improved life expectancy.

Remarkably, Allbritton gave his second affirmative speech without citing any new evidence.

Oscar Newton began his second negative constructive by pointing out that Baylor dropped all of the disadvantages to government-provided health insurance that were outlined in the first negative. He correctly pointed out that these were generic objections that applied to any affirmative plan.

Next, Newton attacked the validity of the 350,000 death figure. He indicated that this figure came from a report by Oscar Ewing. Newton quoted evidence from Maurice Friedman of the American Medical Association arguing that Ewing made up this figure without any basis in fact.

Newton then defended the validity of their evidence from the Bureau of Labor and Brookings Institution. He said that just because 1942 was a war year did not mean that nobody was working. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor finding that companies reported that illness was not a major cause of absenteeism remained valid.

He disputed Allbritton's assertion that the Brookings study was based on 1933 survey data. Newton indicated that Brookings compiled new data from 1948.

Mitchell Latoff devoted the majority of his first negative rebuttal making specific arguments against Baylor's plan. First, he argued that the Federal Security Administration (FSA), who was charged with supervising Baylor's plan, was a bureaucratic mess. He quoted evidence from a former Commissioner of the FSA making this argument.

Second, he indicated that the Federal Government had a poor record in providing medical care to veterans. He referenced a Hoover Commission study that found rampant overspending for facilities and staffing.

Third, Latoff argued that doctor opposition made the plan unworkable. With 9 out of 10 doctors opposed to the plan, he claimed the plan would self-destruct because participation by doctors was voluntary.

Fourth, he pointed out that the fee-for-service method of payment would be open to abuse and costly to administer. He quoted evidence from Oscar Ewing to support this claim.

Fifth, Latoff argued the affirmative plan would cost \$15 billion per year and, with the national debt exceeding \$250 billion, the United States was not in the financial position to pay for everyone's health insurance.

Sixth, he pointed out that the six million Americans, who were unemployed and had not paid any taxes, would be excluded from coverage.

At the conclusion of his speech, Latoff repeated all of the objections to government-provided insurance that Baylor neglected to answer.

In his first affirmative rebuttal, Tom Webb indicated that it was impossible for him to refute all of the thirty objections made by Alabama. He began by responding to Alabama's arguments minimizing the harms. He argued that even if the 350,000 death figure was overstated, Alabama did not deny that the number of deaths was large. Webb also pointed out that the 350,000 number came from a National Health Assembly report and not from Oscar Ewing.

He further argued that the Brookings report did not deny that 80% of Americans lacked adequate insurance. Webb pointed out that Brookings claim that people ought to be able to afford insurance was not grounded in reality. He indicated the budgets of many American families were not capable of paying for health insurance. Then Webb read from page one of the Brookings report to prove that it relied on survey data from 1933.

For the remainder of his speech, Webb responded to some of the attacks on their plan. He dismissed all of the workability concerns and argued that their plan was proven to be workable in seven farm counties. The fear that doctors would not participate, Webb claimed, assumed they would be paid a flat sum and not reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis. However, this was an assertion and not supported by evidence.

Webb dismissed the cost concerns by claiming reducing absenteeism would save enough money to pay for their plan.

Finally, he refuted the claim that the plan would promote socialism. He said the government helping its citizens to obtain health insurance was a vital responsibility and would not destroy freedom in other areas.

In the final negative speech, Oscar Newton's major points were that government-sponsored health insurance would lead to rampant new spending. Moreover, he rejected the possibility that savings from worker productivity would materialize.

Newton also pointed out that Baylor's plan excluded the 6 million who were unemployed and not paying any taxes.

He rehashed the arguments about the Brookings report proving that Americans could afford insurance if they properly budgeted for it. He repeated the statistic that 90% of doctors opposed socialized medicine.



Georgetown College coach and NDT debaters
Mrs. John Meltzer (coach) in Center;
L to R of her are Robert H. Smith & Jack Lowery



St. Mary's coach Brother J. Philip tells NDT debaters
Allen & Clayton to bring back another trophy
L to R: Edward Allen, Roy Wilkes, Brother J. Philip (Coach) & John Clayton

1949 NDT Final Round continued

In his closing arguments, Newton attacked the feasibility of the plan. Specifically, he argued that the fee-for-service payment method was not workable and opposed by several experts cited by Alabama, including from those supporting government-sponsored insurance. Newton also rejected Baylor's claim that a government-supported insurance program in seven rural counties proved that it would work on a nationwide basis.

Newton's last point alleged that government-sponsored health insurance would harm the quality of medical care. He cited a new report from the Catholic Hospital Association making that argument.

In the final affirmative rebuttal, Joe Allbritton began by reestablishing the affirmative need for government-sponsored health insurance. He repeated the statistics that lack of insurance was leading to the deaths of 350,000 and reducing worker productivity by \$28 billion. He maintained that voluntary insurance was inferior to government-sponsored insurance in covering all Americans and pooling risks.

Allbritton then criticized Alabama for asking for too many details and questions about their plan. However, he responded to some of Alabama's objections.

In reply to the argument that doctors opposed the plan, Allbritton claimed that doctors would receive an adequate salary and therefore would participate.

As for Alabama's claim that health care would deteriorate, Allbritton stated that they never explained how this would happen. Moreover, he asserted that government-sponsored insurance would improve medical care because there would be more patients, more doctors, and more funding.

The final objection that Allbritton addressed dealt with the cost of the plan. He indicated that the problem of lack of health insurance was so significant that cost should not be a concern. But, he stated, the cost savings due to reducing illness would more than pay for the plan.

The outcome of the debate resulted in a 6-3 decision for the negative team from Alabama. No information is available about the names of any of the judges.

Stylistically, there was a huge difference in the debating approaches. Baylor asserted most of their arguments, quoted no evidence, and made few references to expert opinion. In contrast, Alabama cited and quoted evidence nine times during the debate.

In his critique of the 1949 NDT final round debate published in *Championship Debating*, Professor M. Jack Parker speculated that the three judges who voted for Baylor may have felt that Alabama only slightly minimized the extent of the harms, and they were not persuaded that the workability problems would prevent the success of the plan.

The six judges who voted for Alabama, Parker suggested, probably voted negative because Baylor never satisfactorily responded to many of the objections to their plan. Parker also noted that the greatest deficiency with Baylor's presentation was their failure to support their arguments with properly-cited evidence.

The two coaches of the final round teams, Annabel Dunham and Glenn Capp, were legendary figures in American forensics, and their life stories and careers deserve to be told.



1949 NDT champion Alabama with the Larmon Trophy
L to R: Oscar Newton, Annabel Dunham (coach), and Mitchell Latoff

1949 National Debate Tournament

Teams qualifying for elimination rounds

1	7-1	Univ of Alabama	Oscar L. Newton & Mitchell G. Lattof	Annabel Dunham
2	6-2	Ottawa Univ.	LaVerne Buffum & Robert Logan	Lloyd A. Stafford
3	6-2	Notre Dame	Bill Carey & Frank Finn	Leonard Sommer
4	6-2	Univ of Vermont	John B. Harrington & Thomas L. Hayes	Robert B. Huber
5	6-2	Univ of Penn.	Saul D. Krononet & Arlen Specter	Edwin Lucas & E.P. Norris
6	5-3	Univ of Kansas	Bill Conboy & Ed Stollenwerck	E.C. Buhler
7	5-3	Baylor Univ.	Joseph L. Allbritton & Thomas F. Webb	Glenn R. Capp
8	5-3	George Washington	Charles E. Lilien & Henry C. Krebs	George F. Henigan

Non-advancing teams in alphabetical order with their record in parenthesis followed by their coach

Augustana College, IL (5-3)	Robert Sward & Roger Nebergall	Martin J. Holcomb
Champlain College, NY (5-3)	Terrell Arnold & Frank Bruno	Jerome G. Kovalcik
DePauw University (5-3)	Howard Downs & Greg Payne	Forrest Seal
Georgetown College, KY (3-5)	Jack Lowery & Robert Hall Smith	Mrs. John Melzer
Louisiana College (3-5)	Kelly Hamm & Clyde White	W. Scott Nobles
MIT (3-5)	Edward Perkins & James Jensen	R.T. Marsh
Montana State (5-3)	Art Arras & Frank Gonzalez	Ralph Y. McGinnis
North Texas State (4-4)	Donald W. Clark & William Wilson	Sam B. McAlister
Northwestern (4-4)	Arthur Davis & Dean Olds	James H. McBath
Pacific University, OR (2-6)	Huber W. Ellingsworth & Louis B. Gearhardt	Albert C. Hingston
Pepperdine College (3-5)	Jean Eslinger & Howard Privett	Emmett Long
Phillips University (3-5)	Bob Fudge & Ted Clevenger	Ira G. Morrison
San Diego State (2-6)	Darrell Beers & Aiden Fulkerson	John Ackley
Southeastern State (4-4)	Jack Carter & Collin Bowen	T.A. Houston
Stanford (3-5)	Ronald Klein & Forden Athearn	James G. Emerson
Stevens Institute (1-7)	Bob Vanasse & Dick Sullivan	Phillip S. Campbell
St. Mary's College (5-3)	John Clayton & Edward Allen	Brother J. Philip
St. Olaf College (4-4)	John Kildahl & Waldo Johnson	T.F. Nelson
Temple University (3-5)	Sam Elpern & Sherwood Weissman	Gordon F. Hostettler
U.S. Military Academy (5-3)	William R. McDowell	Lt. Col. Chester L. Johnson
U.S. Naval Academy (3-5)	Rodney E. Eyster & Robert K. Ripley	H.O. Werner
Willamette University (3-5)	Robert Sayre & Tom Bartlett	James W. Kirkwood
University of Arizona (5-3)	Henry A. Kiker & Vernon Meyers	W. Arthur Cable
University of Chicago (2-6)	Edwin P. Wiley & Larry Travis	William Birenbaum
University of the South (2-6)	Lacy R. Harwell & Loren B. Mead	Walter L. McGoldrick
Yale University (3-5)	Richard Shapiro & Marvin Chatinover	Rollin Osterweis

1949 NDT Top Speaker:

Robert Marion Sayre

August 18, 1924 to March 31, 2016

Robert M. Sayre, a Willamette debater, won top speaker honors at the 1949 NDT. He was tied in total points with Ed Stollenwerck of the University of Kansas. Both speakers received 1016 total points. The tie breaking procedure used to designate Sayre as the top speaker is unknown.

For the second consecutive year, the top speaker of the NDT did not advance to the elimination rounds. Sayre and his partner, Tom Bartlett, were 3-5. The first top speaker in 1948, Potter Kerfoot from USC, had a record of 2-3.

At the 1948 NDT, Sayre (debating with Charles Mills) was the 5th seed with a 4-1 record. He lost in the octofinals to Colorado.

Bob Sayre was born in Hillsboro, Oregon. He served in the United States Army in Europe from 1942 to 1946 during World War II. In 1949, Sayre earned a bachelor's degree from Willamette, followed by a JD from George Washington in 1956 and a Master's degree from Stanford in 1960.

Sayre began working at the State Department in 1949 as an intern. From 1949 until his retirement in 1985, Sayre enjoyed a distinguished career specializing in Latin America issues and policy for the State Department.

After his internship, Sayre served for seven years as an international economist. He then began a series of assignments in Latin America. From 1957 to 1960, he headed the political office in Lima, Peru. From 1960 to 1961, he served as the financial officer in Havana, Cuba, when Castro's overthrew the Batista government and closed the U.S. Embassy. From 1961 to 1964, Sayre was officer in charge of Mexican affairs.

For the next four years, Sayre served as a senior staff member on the National Security Council (1964-65), the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs (1966-67), and acting Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs (1967-68).

President Nixon appointed Sayre to be Ambassador to Uruguay (1968-69) and Ambassador to Panama (1969 to 1974). As Ambassador to Panama, he is credited with improving U.S. relations with the Panamanian dictator, General Omar Torrijos.

From 1974 to 1978, Sayre became the State Department's Inspector General of the Foreign Service. In 1978, President Carter appointed Sayre to be the U.S. Ambassador to Brazil (1978 to 1981). Sayre's accomplishments included restoring military relations with Brazil and coordinating a visit by Pope Paul II.

Under President Reagan, Sayre was appointed the Director of the U.S. State Department's Office for Combatting Terrorism (1982-94), Head of the State Department, Inspection Corps (1984-85) and Advisor, U.S. Mission to the OAS (1985-87).

In 1987, Sayre retired from the State Department and served as the Undersecretary for Management at the Organization of American States. On March 31, 2016, Sayre died in Fairfax, Virginia at the age of 91.



Willamette University NDT team
L to R: Tom Bartlett & Robert Sayre (top speaker)



Ambassaor Robert Sayre

1949 NDT Final Round Coaches

Annabel Dunham Hagood

February 7, 1924 to November 2, 2000

Annabel Dunham was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. After her family moved to New Orleans, she attended college at the Southwest Louisiana Institute (now called the University of Louisiana at Lafayette).

During her college years, Dunham emerged as the star debater on the varsity women's team of Southwestern Louisiana Institute (SLI). In 1944, Dunham tied for first place at four tournaments: Louisiana College Speech Tournament; Southern Association of Teachers of Speech Tournament at Jackson, Mississippi; Pi Kappa Convention at Sam Houston State Teacher's College; and Savage Forensics Tournament at Durant, Oklahoma. Due to her numerous debate triumphs, SLI awarded Dunham with the most valuable debater trophy for 1944.

After graduating from SLI in 1944, Dunham earned her Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin (Madison) in 1946. In the fall of 1946, the University of Alabama hired Dunham as their debate coach; she was only 22 years old. In June 1950, Annabel Dunham married William Knox Hagood and became known as Annabel Hagood.

As the Director of Debate from 1946 to 1977, Hagood achieved spectacular success, especially during the 40s, 50s, and 60s. Hagood won the NDT for a second time in 1955 (Dennis Holt & Ellis Storey), reached the semifinals three times (1953, Louis Lusk & Murray Havens; 1963, Robert Roberts & Richard Boudin; and 1966, Russell Drake & Fournier Gale), advanced to the quarterfinals once (1960, Joe Cook & Craig Baumberger), and earned four octofinals (1956, Dennis Holt & Murray Alley; 1958; Wayne Loudermilk & Betty Grimmer; 1961, Joe Cook & Craig Baumberger; and 1964, Robert Roberts & Bruce DiPlacido). In 1964, she coached Robert E. Roberts to win top speaker honors at the NDT.

Hagood's amazing record as a debate coach was recognized when she became the first recipient of the national coach of the year award in 1967.

Along with her competitive success, Hagood provided extraordinary leadership to several organizations, including laying the foundation for the current structure and operation of the NDT.

When West Point announced in 1966 that it would stop hosting the NDT, Hagood formed the committee charged with finding a new host and creating rules for the operation of the tournament. This committee evolved into the current NDT Committee. In 1968, Hagood became the Chair of the NDT Committee. She also served for ten years on the NDT Board of Trustees (1967 to 1977), including being the Chair for two terms (1968-69 and 1975-76).

In 1949, Hagood helped found the American Forensic Association (AFA) and served as its president from 1956 to 1958. The AFA honored her service by presenting her with the 1979 Distinguished Service Award.

At the University of Alabama, Hagood also emerged as a prominent leader. She organized the formation of the University Faculty Senate and served as its President from 1975 to 1977. For 11 years, Hagood served as the Chair of the Speech Communication Department (1976 to 1987).

With her sterling resume as a debate coach, Hagood became sought after for advice by the organizers of the Kennedy-Nixon presidential debates in 1960. In 1976, she helped prepare Democratic candidate Jimmy Carter for his debates with Gerald Ford.

Upon retiring from the University of Alabama in 1987, Hagood opened a communication consultancy business. On November 2, 2000, Hagood died of cancer while living in Harrisonburg, Virginia.



Coach Annabel Dunham with her Alabama squad

First row: Dunham, third from the Left

Third row: Oscar Newton & Mitchell Lattot, first and second from Left

NDT Final Round Coaches

Glenn R. Capp

September 21, 1910 to December 14, 1998

Glenn R. Capp was born in Westminster, Texas, but grew up in Shawnee, Oklahoma from the age of 13 until he graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) in 1933.

Capp began debating in the 8th grade, and he debated throughout high school and during his four years at OBU. In 1932, Capp participated in a debate against Baylor in Waco Hall. He lost the debate but his performance impressed the president of Baylor, Pat Neff. After the debate, Neff told Capp to contact him when he graduated.

So when he graduated, Capp wrote Neff a letter asking him if he remembered him from that debate. Two days later, he received a telegram from Neff asking Capp to meet him in the Baker Hotel in Dallas. At the meeting, Capp informed Neff that he planned to enroll in law school at the University of Kansas. Therefore, Neff made a deal with Capp. Neff offered him a job as the debate coach, and he could take one class per semester at the Baylor law school. That's the story for how Glenn R. Capp came to Baylor in the Fall of 1934.

After Capp received his law degree from Baylor in 1938, he was promoted as a full-time faculty member. However, in July 1942, Capp received his draft notice and he went into the Army, where he was stationed at several bases in the United States. His service in the Army involved teaching Air Force pilots how to communicate more effectively when using their radios to speak with other pilots.

In February 1946, Capp left the Army and returned to Baylor, where he continued as the director of debate until 1970.

Capp coached many outstanding Baylor teams. His teams reached the final round of the NDT three times: 1949, Joe Allbritton & Tom Webb; 1952, Calvin Cannon & John Claypool; and 1962, Mike Henke & Calvin Kent). He also coached three teams to the semifinals of the NDT: (1951, Ted Clevinger & Calvin Cannon; 1960, Michael Henke & George Schell; and 1961, Michael Henke & George Schell).

While serving as the Director of Debate, Capp taught full-time and served as the Chair of the Speech Department beginning in the Fall of 1948. Somehow, he found time to write eight books, including two debate textbooks. In 1949, he co-authored (with Luther Cortney) his first book on debate, *Practical Debating*. With his wife (Thelma) as a co-author, Capp wrote, *Principles of Argumentation and Debate* in 1965.

Capp contributed to the formation and growth of several forensic organizations including being a founding member of the American Forensic Association (AFA) and serving as President of the Southern States Communication Association (1949-50). In 1942, Capp served as president of the National Pi Kappa Delta forensic fraternity.

Politically, Capp described himself as a New Deal, liberal Democrat. And he lived his life by those liberal principles. For instance, in 1956, he made history by holding the first racially-integrated debate tournament in the South. In his 1986 book, *Excellence In Forensics A Tradition At Baylor University*, Capp wrote that after holding the tournament, he received a flurry of irate letters, and he was criticized by editorials in newspapers.

After teaching for 47 years, Glenn Capp retired from Baylor in 1981. On December 14, 1998, he died at his home in Waco at the age of 88



Glenn Capp bowling in 1949



Professor Capp: The Scholar

NDT Final Round Debaters

Oscar Lee Newton

January 17, 1927 to January 7, 2017

Oscar Newton served in the Philippines with the Navy during World War II and received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. After the war, he turned down his appointment and enrolled in the University of Alabama.

Winning the NDT earned Newton an appointment to be a member of the U.S. international debate team that would tour Great Britain in 1950. His partner on the tour was a Bates college senior, Charles Radcliffe, who won the National Recorded Debate Tournament. During January 1950, Newton traveled to Maine to prepare with Radcliffe for the tour and to receive coaching from professor Brooks Quimby, who had expertise in coaching students for debating in Great Britain. Newton and Radcliffe were victorious in 12 of their 16 debates, including wins against Oxford and Cambridge.

For his professional career, Newton worked for over 60 years in the life insurance industry. He moved to Houston and spent 50 years as a senior officer and Vice President of Public Relations for the American General Life Insurance Company. To honor his many years of service, AIG dedicated a permanent exhibit in the atrium of the corporate headquarters which told the story of his life and times at the company

Newton became a nationally known speaker and humorist who appeared as a keynote speaker at life insurance meetings, trade associations, conventions, and civic organizations. He spoke before audiences in 46 states and 10 foreign countries. The National Association of Life Underwriters called Newton one of the "truly great life insurance evangelists."

He received numerous awards from the insurance industry, including being named Man of the Year by the Texas Association of Life Underwriters, recipient of the Woodson Award for Outstanding Service to the Insurance Industry and to the Community, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

The University of Alabama honored Newton by creating an endowment and establishing the Oscar Newton Prize for Public Speaking which provided monetary prizes to students in annual speech competitions. He also received the Outstanding Alumni Award in 1999.

In 2006, the City of Houston honored Newton by issuing a proclamation of "Oscar Newton Day" in recognition of his years of service to the community. Newton supported numerous charities in Houston, including the United Way, the American Cancer Society, and The Neighborhood Centers. On January 7, 2014, Oscar Newton died in Houston at the age of 86.



Oscar Newton & Charles Radcliffe departing for the UK

NDT Final Round Debaters

Mitchell G. Lattof

January 30, 1929 to August 4, 2020

Mitchell Lattof spent his entire life in Mobile, Alabama. After attending high school at Murphy High School in Mobile, Lattof attended the University of Alabama, and graduated with a B.S. Degree in Commerce and Business Administration in 1950.

After winning the NDT as a junior, Lattof did not compete in debate tournaments during his senior year. However, he did participate in an on-campus debate during November 1949 with a team of Oxford debaters. Lattof and Robin Day of Oxford debated on the negative side on the question, "Resolved: That Democratic Socialism is the most effective barrier to Communism." Oscar Newton defended the affirmative side debating with Oxford debater, G. Johnson Smith.

In the fall of 1950, Lattof enrolled in law school at the University of Alabama and received his JD in 1952. Lattof practiced law in Mobile from 1952 until he died at the age of 91 in 2020.

Beginning in 1952, Lattof was licensed to practice before all courts within the State of Alabama and was admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Alabama, The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Lattof founded a personal injury law firm that would eventually become Lattof & Lattof, P.C. He practiced law in Mobile for 68 years and was a member of the Mobile Bar Association, the Alabama State Bar, and the American Bar Association. He served as President of the Mobile Bar Association in 1986, as a Member of Mobile County Judicial Commission from 1989 to 1995, and served on numerous Bar Committees.

As the Chair of the Mobil Bar Association Archives Committee, Lattof conducted many video interviews of long time Mobile attorneys dating back to the 1940s in order to preserve their memories and insights about practicing law. At the time of his death in 2020, he was the longest serving acting attorney in the Mobile Bar Association.

In 1999, Lattof was selected as an Outstanding Alumnus by the College of Communications of the University of Alabama on the 50th Anniversary of his winning the 1949 NDT.

On August 4, 2020, Mitchell Lattof died in Mobile, Alabama at the age of 91.



Mitchell Lattof: Attorney

NDT Final Round Debaters

Thomas Freeman Webb

July 4, 1926 to December 20, 1996

Tom Webb attended high school in Abilene, Texas and then went to college at Hardin-Simmons University. When the U.S. entered World War II, Webb served as a radar operator in the Navy. After the war, he attended Baylor and received his law degree in 1949. Webb's aptitude for the law became evident early on. Among the 249 law students taking the Texas Bar exam in 1949, Webb received the highest score.

After passing the bar examination, Webb returned to Abilene, where he practiced law and served as an Abilene city councilman. In 1956, he formed a law partnership in Abilene with Aubrey Stokes and Malcom Schultz. Webb moved to San Angelo in the early 60s and established the law firm of Webb & Stokes. In 1972, Sam Sparks joined the firm and it became Webb, Stokes and Sparks.

Webb was recognized as one of the best personal injury trial lawyers in Texas. In 1978, he was among the first lawyers in the state to be Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He served as the President of the Tom Green County Bar Association from 1977-78, and he was a president and the founding member of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association.

He held the distinguished honor of being a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers of America which is considered one of the most prestigious honors a trial lawyer can obtain internationally. Webb was a member of the American Bar Association, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and the Law Science Academy of America.

On December 20, 1996, Webb died at the age of 70. To honor his extraordinary life, the Texas House of Representatives unanimously adopted a House Resolution (H.R. No. 98) which lauded his many accomplishments. His law firm, Webb, Stokes and Sparks, remains in operation today in San Angelo, Texas.



Thomas Webb: Democratic Chair for Taylor County (photo from *The Abilene Reporter*)

NDT Final Round Debaters

Joseph L. Allbritton

December 29, 1924 to December 12, 2012

Joe Allbritton enrolled at Baylor in 1942, but his studies were interrupted by World War II. From 1943 to 1946, Allbritton served in the Navy. After the war ended, Allbritton returned to Baylor and received his law degree in 1949.

Allbritton opened a law office and bought and sold real estate around Houston. He invested the profits in several banks, insurance companies, and a chain of mortuaries in California. By the age of 33, Allbritton had become a millionaire.

During the 1950s and 1960s, his ability to turn around struggling banks (e.g., the San Jacinto Savings & Loan, Citizens Bank and Trust, and the Houston Bank & Trust) made him an extremely wealthy man.

In 1975, Allbritton moved to Washington, DC and sold the majority of his holdings in Texas. Soon afterwards, Allbritton became a media tycoon. Among the media properties owned by Allbritton included the *Washington Star* and *The Trenton Times*, eight ABC-affiliated television stations in seven markets, including WJLA in Washington, and the website, Politico.

When he purchased Riggs Bank in 1981, the largest bank in the nation's capital, Allbritton gained tremendous influence and wealth. In 1987, *Banker's Monthly* named Allbritton as the richest banker in the United States. He also made it on the *Forbes* 400 list of the richest Americans.

His media and banking empires gave Allbritton extraordinary influence and access with the rich and famous. He counted among his friends the Queen of England, Prince Charles, George H.W. Bush, Jack Valenti, and Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

Allbritton owned a large farm called Lazy Lane Farms in Upperville, Virginia where he bred horses. In 1991, Hansel, one of his horses at Lazy Farms, won the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes.

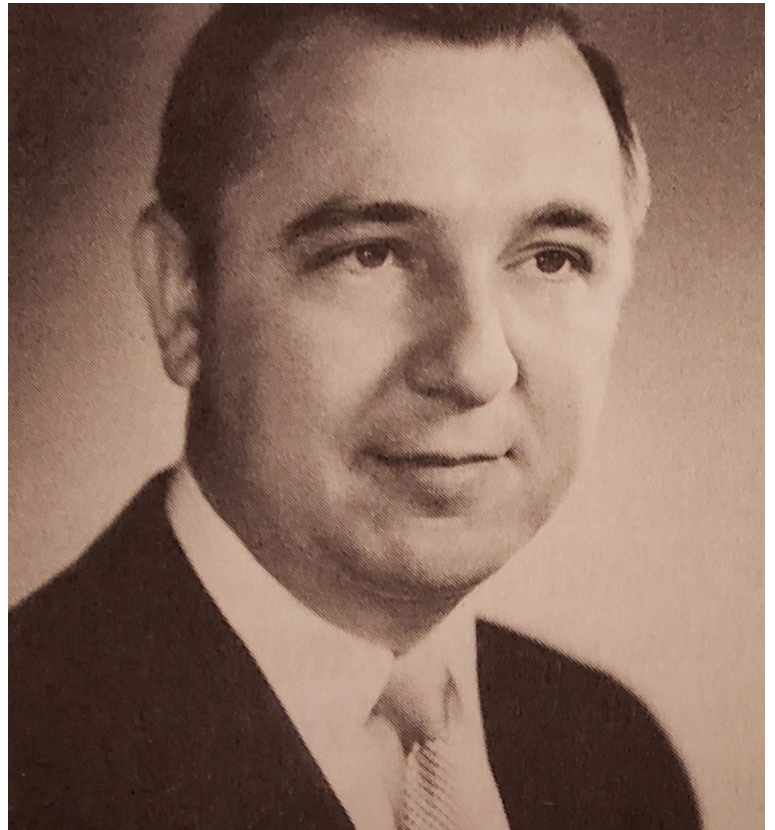
To show his appreciation for the education that he received from Baylor, Allbritton became one of Baylor's biggest benefactors. He provided funds to build the main library (Moody Memorial), to construct a home for the Baylor president, and to establish endowments for the Glenn Capp Chair in Forensics and the Abner McCall Chair in Evidence, in the law school. He also brought the Allbritton Art Institute to Baylor's Department of Art and generously supported the Baylor Medical School.

His philanthropy extended beyond Baylor. Allbritton served as a trustee of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, and the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation. He sat on the boards of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. He donated the official White House portrait of President Ronald Reagan.

Allbritton's success in business was best stated by Houston lawyer Gibson Gayle, when he told the *Washington Post* in 2004 that Allbritton "could charm the rattles off the back end of a rattlesnake." On December 12, 2012, Allbritton died in Houston, Texas at the age of 87.



Joe Allbritton moderating
a public forum debate in 1949

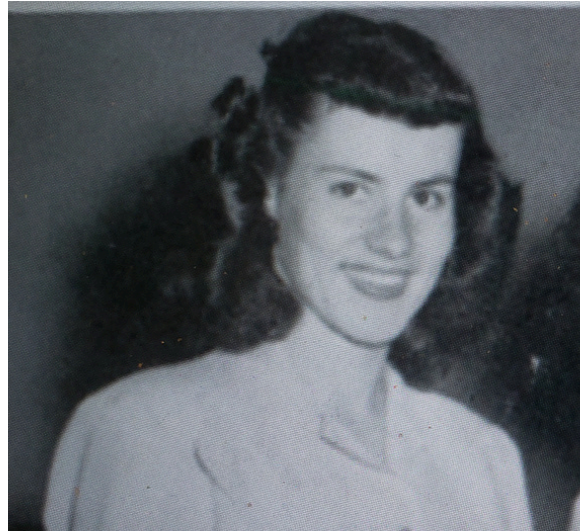


Joe Allbritton (undated photo)

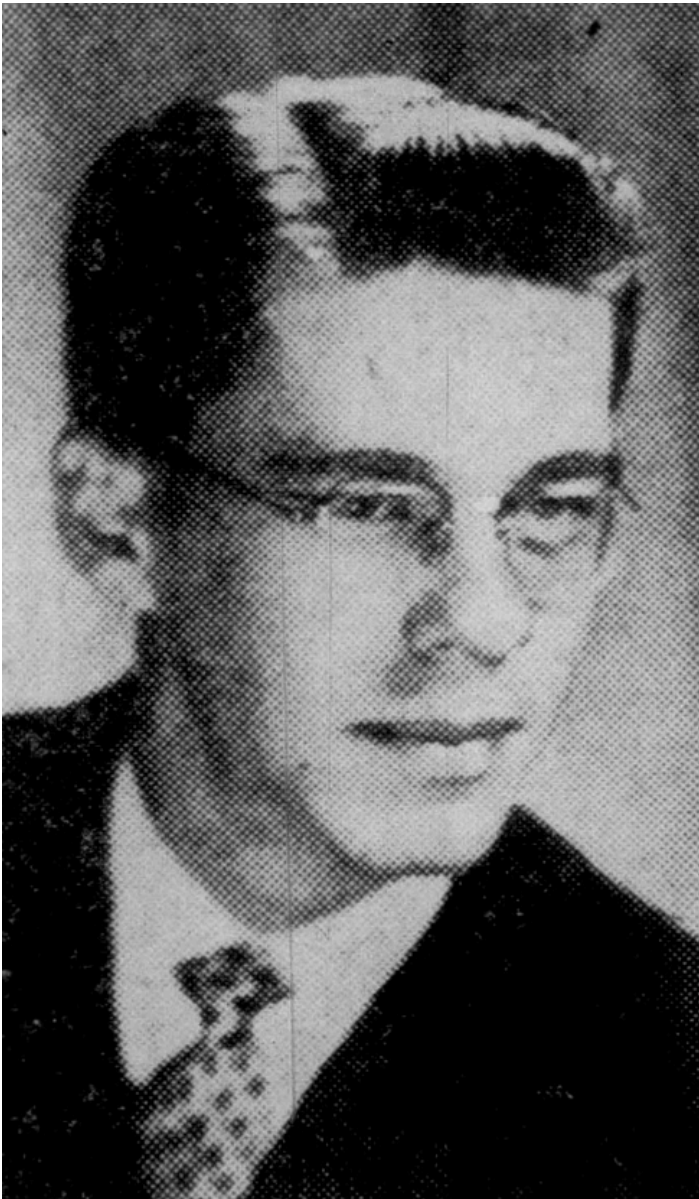
Photos from the 3rd NDT (1949)



Forden Athearn & Ronald Kein, Stanford



Laverne Buffum, semifinalist
Ottawa



Ed Stollenwerck, 2nd Speaker



Frank Finn, 3rd speaker

Photos from the 3rd NDT (1949)



William McDowell, West Point



Clyde White, Louisiana



Montana State NDT debaters and coach
L to R, Front Row: Ralph Y. McGinnis (coach) & Art Arras
Back Row: Frank Gonzalez



University of the South Debate Team
L to R, second row: Loren B. Mead (NDT debater) & Lacy R. Harwell (NDT debater)



Pepperdine Debate
Front row: third from the L, Jean Eslinger
Back row: Coach Long and Howard Privett, second and fourth from the left

Photos from the 3rd NDT (1949)



Phillips University Debate Team

Bob Fudge (NDT debater) and Ira G. Morrison (coach) second and fourth from the left
Ted Clevenger (NDT debater), back row, second from the left



T.F. Nelson
St. Olaf Coach



MIT Debate Team

Edward Perkins and James Jensen (NDT debaters), third and fourth from the left



Rollin Osterweis, Yale Coach



W. Scott Nobles, Louisiana Coach

In Memoriam



Joan Kathryn Archer
November 6, 1960 to April 17, 2025

Joan Archer, a three-time NDT qualifier for Gonzaga and an agribusiness trial lawyer and intellectual property litigator, passed away at the age of 64. Archer qualified for the NDT in 1979, 1980 and 1982. She debated with Marco Baranti in all three NDTs.

Archer & Baranti were a very successful debate team, particularly at regional tournaments. They won the Lewis & Clark Tournament (1981) and the Pacific Lutheran Tournament (1982). In their senior year, they advanced to the quarterfinals of Loyola Marymount and Utah, which were national caliber tournaments.

After graduating from Gonzaga in 1982, Archer studied communications and assisted in coaching the debate team at Wayne State. She received her MA in 1984. In the fall of 1984, Archer returned to Gonzaga and served as the head debate coach. She assisted Darrell Scott in hosting the 1985 NDT at Gonzaga. In 1985, she was appointed the Director of Forensics and qualified two teams to the NDT in 1986.

Archer left Gonzaga for the University of Kansas, where she earned a PhD in Communication Studies and Jury Behavior (1992) and a JD from the law school (1993). While at Kansas, she also coached the debate teams and judged at tournaments.

After law school, Archer served as a Law Clerk to Justice Fred N. Six of the Kansas Supreme Court. She then worked as a trial lawyer at several firms, focused on complex business and intellectual property litigation and protection of trademarks, copyright, and trade secrets.

In 2013, Archer became a partner at Husch Blackwell in charge of the food and agribusiness group. She left in 2018 to become the General Counsel of AGI Digital, which provides farmers with artificial intelligence technologies to grow, protect, and store food supplies.

Joan Archer enjoyed a long and distinguished legal career. She has been recognized by Super Lawyers in the area of intellectual property litigation, and for the past several years was deemed one of the top 50 women attorneys in Missouri and Kansas. She was also named one of the top 50 attorneys in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area by Super Lawyers.

At the time of her death, Archer was working in the Los Angeles law office of Carlton Fields as the Technology Industry Group Leader.



William H. Brewster
November 10, 1962 to September 22, 2024

Bill Brewster, a four-time NDT qualifier for Emory and a prominent trademark attorney, passed away from acute complications of Addison's disease, an autoimmune disorder.

Brewster became the first Emory debater to qualify for the NDT in all four years. In 1981, as a freshman, Brewster debating with sophomore, Mike Hancock, qualified for the NDT but did not advance to the elimination rounds. Debating with Reggie Smith, Brewster won the novice nationals tournament.

In 1982, Brewster & Hancock received a first-round at-large bid and were ranked as the 12th best team. However, they failed to reach the elimination rounds.

In their last year debating together, Brewster & Hancock were finally firing on all cylinders. They received another first-round at-large bid and were ranked 12th again. At the 1983 NDT, Brewster & Hancock were 6-2 with 17 ballots, making them the 5th seed. They lost in the octofinals to Loyola.

In Memoriam

With Hancock graduating, Brewster debated with Rich Robbins during his senior year. Brewster & Robbins had a fantastic year. They were ranked as the third best team in the first-round at-large voting. At the 1984 NDT, they were 5-3 with 16 ballots and reached the quarterfinals. Bill Brewster won second place speaker honors.

After Emory, Brewster received his JD from the University of Virginia in 1987. He joined the law firm of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton and began a career as one of the best IP litigators in the United States.

Brewster was one of the lead attorneys (along with another Emory debater, Charlie Henn) who obtained a \$305 billion dollar verdict in a trademark case, where the jury found Payless guilty of infringing the trademark of Adidas. At the time, this was the largest judgment ever won in a trademark case.

Among the preeminent legal rating agencies, Brewster was considered among the very best IP and trademark lawyers. World Trademark Review ranks Brewster among the top tier for U.S. enforcement and litigation. Legal 500 lists Brewster among the eight leading lawyers in U.S trademark litigation. Chambers USA names Brewster among the top 5 best trademark and copyright lawyers in the U.S. The Best Lawyers in America has named Brewster as one of the best lawyers for over twenty years.

Brewster was an active community volunteer serving on his firm's Pro Bono Committee. He served as Chair of the Board for Special Olympics Georgia and Chair of the Board for Giving Kitchen, which assists food service workers in times of crisis.



Cecilia Jean Graves
February 28, 1956 to May 12, 2025

Cecilia Graves, an NDT qualifier for Fairmont State and a debate coach at James Madison, passed away at the age of 69.

Graves qualified for the 1978 NDT debating with James Peluso. This was an impressive achievement as the Fairmont State squad had few debaters. In the history of Fairmont State, Graves & Peluso are only the second team to have qualified for the NDT.

During her senior year, Graves achieved some impressive tournament successes. Graves & Peluso gained a second place at the William & Mary Tournament, and they won the Liberty Bell Debate Tournament hosted by the University of Pennsylvania.

After graduating from Fairmont with a BA in speech communication, Graves earned her Master's degree at Ohio University. As a graduate student, she coached the Ohio University team of David Berger and Jack Thomas who qualified for the 1979 NDT.

From the Fall of 1986 to the Spring of 1992, Graves attained a great deal of success as the debate coach at James Madison University. Over those six years, Graves qualified a team to the NDT every year, including two teams in 1989, 1990, 1991, and 1992.

In 1992, Graves coached Jean-Paul Lacy and Michael Hall to the octofinals of the NDT. Lacy & Hall were 5-3 with 15 ballots and defeated West Georgia on a 3-2 decision in the double-octos. They lost to Dartmouth (Kenny Agran & Ara Lovitt) in the octofinals.

Michael Hall upon learning of Graves passing remarked, "She was one of the smartest and most dedicated coaches I have ever come across. She was kind, supportive, and a fierce advocate for everything she believed in."

James Madison teams earned many victories during Graves' tenure. For instance, Rob Russell & Jeff Euchler won the varsity division of the first ADA Nationals in 1988. Sue Pester & Heather Emmert placed second in varsity at ADA Nationals in 1991. Lacy & Hall won the King's Tournament in 1991, and placed second at South Carolina.

Under the coaching leadership of Cecilia Graves, the James Madison debate program achieved a consistent record of excellence which is reflected in JMU attaining a top ten ranking in the overall NDT points from 1988 to 1992: 1988, 9th place; 1989, tied for 6th place; 1990, 6th place; 1991, 2nd place; 1992, 9th place.

Graves returned to Morgantown and opened, The Needlecraft Barn, where she sold high quality fiber arts supplies and offered classes in needlework. She was a member of the Morgantown Fiber Guild and a highly skilled knitter.

In Memoriam



Robert W. Halli, Jr.

February 17, 1946 to April 14, 2024

Robert Halli, Jr., a two-time qualifier to the NDT for Boston College and an English professor at the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa), passed away at the age of 78.

Robert W. Halli, Jr. qualified for the NDT in 1965 (with Joseph McLaughlin) and in 1967 (with David White). In 1967, White & Halli were the 17th seed and missed clearing because they failed to win 3 ballots from Southern Oregon in round 8.

Halli won numerous individual speaker awards, including top speaker at St. Joseph's (Fall 1965), The University of Pennsylvania (Spring 1965), and Boston University (Spring 1965).

In the Spring of 1965, he won first place at the American University Tournament (with McLaughlin) and during his debating career, he reached the quarterfinals at Brandeis, octofinals at Georgetown, quarterfinals at Harvard, semifinals at the US Naval Academy, and top seed at the NDT qualifying tournament in 1967.

After graduating from Boston College, Halli received his MA and PhD in English from the University of Virginia.

In 1972, Halli was hired by the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa) as a professor of English. As a professor, Halli taught diverse courses, including English Renaissance literature, Shakespeare, Milton, the detective novel, and ballads and folksongs.

His great scholarly work was his book, *An Alabama Songbook: Ballad, Folksong and Spirituals*, which compiled and examined Alabama ballads collected by Byron Arnold.

After teaching for almost 30 years, Halli was appointed in 2002 as the founding Dean of the Honors College. Under his leadership, he expanded course offerings, recruited talented high school students, and created the University Fellows Program for exceptional undergraduates.

In 2009, Halli retired from the Honors College, but continued to be involved as the faculty representative for the Harry Truman Scholarship Program, as well as teaching different courses in the Oxford program each summer.

Halli was a recipient of numerous awards, including the Morris Lehman Mayer Award (for exemplifying integrity, selfless service, and leadership), the Eugene Current-Garcia Award (for distinguished literary scholarship), the Outstanding Commitment to Students Award, the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award, and the University's Lifetime Achievement Award.



Mark R. Killenbeck

September 29, 1948 to March 30, 2025

Mark R. Killenbeck, a two-time NDT quarterfinalist debating for Boston College and a University of Arkansas Law professor, died on March 30, 2025, following a lengthy illness.

Debating with Charles Brown, Killenbeck reached the quarterfinals of the NDT in 1969 and 1970. In 1969, Brown & Killenbeck were 5-3 with 16 ballots. In the octofinals, they defeated Canisius in a 3-2 decision. In the quarterfinals, they lost to Loyola (Los Angeles) in a 4-1 decision.

In Memoriam

At the 1970 NDT, Brown & Killenbeck were again 5-3 with 16 ballots. They defeated UCLA in the octofinals in a 5-0 decision. In the quarterfinals, they lost to the University of Houston (the top seed) in a 5-0 decision.

During his senior year, Killenbeck earned top speaker honors at Redlands, Georgetown, Harvard, and Northwestern. He was also second speaker at UCLA and the fifth speaker at the NDT in 1969.

After graduating from Boston College with a BA in English literature, Killenbeck worked at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He developed an interest in the law and enrolled in a dual PhD and JD program at the University of Nebraska.

While studying at the University of Nebraska, Killenbeck worked in central administration for 13 years, ultimately becoming the Chief of Staff to President Ron Roskens. In 1987, he received his PhD. and JD from Nebraska, and he accepted a position in 1988 to be a law professor at the University of Arkansas.

For thirty-five years, Killenbeck taught Constitutional Law, First Amendment Law, American Legal History, and a seminar on the United States Supreme Court. In 1999, he was named the Wylie H. Davis Distinguished Professor of Law. He retired from teaching in 2023.

Killenbeck produced groundbreaking scholarship. He is recognized as the preeminent authority on *McCullough v. Maryland* which became the subject of one of his two books. He published numerous articles in the top legal journals, including *The Michigan Law Review*, *The Supreme Court Review*, and *The California Law Review*.

On three occasions, he was invited by the United States Supreme Court to give lectures on The Commerce Clause, *McCulloch v. Maryland* and a lecture on notable concurring opinions that served as dissents. He was hosted on those occasions by Justices Sotomayor and Breyer.

The prestigious American Law Institute elected Killenbeck as a member in 1994, and he received lifetime membership in 2019.



Frederic Schumann Le Clercq
October 24, 1937 to January 12, 2025

Fred Le Clercq, a three-time NDT qualifier (1957, 1958, & 1959) from the University of South Carolina, passed away after a brief illness, while vacationing in Rome, Italy.

In the 1957 NDT, Le Clercq, debating with Pete Martin, missed clearing when they were defeated in round eight by Kansas. The following two years at the NDT, Le Clercq reached the elimination rounds but was beaten in both years by the powerhouse team of William Welsh and Richard Kirshberg from Northwestern, who won the NDT in 1958, and 1959.

At the 1958 NDT, Le Clercq debating with Mike Osborne, advanced to the quarterfinals. Le Clercq & Osborne were 5-3 with 15 ballots, making them the 6th seed. In the octofinals, they defeated Notre Dame. They lost in the quarterfinals in a 3-2 decision to Northwestern.

The following year, Le Clercq returned to debating with Pete Martin at the 1959 NDT. They were 5-3 with 14 ballots and the 9th seed. In the octofinals, they were vanquished again by Welsh & Kirshberg of Northwestern.

Le Clercq achieved many debate triumphs. In 1958, Le Clercq (debating with Martin) won the ACC Debate Tournament held at Duke and the All-Southern Debate Tournament held at Agnes Scott in Atlanta. He also placed second at the Tau Kappa Alpha National Forensics Tournament (debating with Osborne). At the Wake Forest tournament in 1958, Le Clercq (debating with Warren Adkins) on the negative team, tied for first place with a 5-1 record. On Friday evening, a bomb scare in Reynolds Hall delayed the tournament late into the evening.

After graduating from South Carolina, Le Clercq obtained an MA in 1960 from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and then he attended Duke Law School, receiving his JD in 1963.

From 1967 to 1969, Le Clercq served as a law professor at Emory. He was heavily involved in Democratic politics and ran an unsuccessful campaign for Congress.

In 1970, Le Clercq was hired by the University of Tennessee College of Law to establish a Legal Clinic. Shortly thereafter, he became a law professor. He taught courses in constitutional law and civil procedure. He retired from teaching in 1996 and moved back to Charleston, South Carolina.

In Memoriam



Jacob James Tyler Loehr
July 6, 1994 to August 12, 2024

Jacob Loehr, a four-time NDT qualifier for the University of Texas (Dallas) and an attorney, passed away at the age of 30.

Loehr qualified for the NDT in 2013 (with Samantha Varney) and in 2014, 2015, 2016 (with Anthony Ogbuli). He became the first UT (Dallas) debater to qualify for the NDT four times.

At the 2015 NDT, Loehr & Ogbuli were 5-3 with 15 ballots. They advanced to the double-octos and were defeated by the University of Kentucky (Jonathan Geldof & Ava Vargason).

In 2016, Loehr & Ogbuli reached the octofinals of the NDT. They were again 5-3 with 15 ballots. In the double-octo finals, they upset the 12th seed from West Georgia (Hakeem Muhammad & Khalid Sharif). They were defeated in the octofinals by a very strong Berkeley team (Mimi Sergent-Leventhal & Michael Wimsatt).

For the 2015-16 season, Loehr & Ogbuli reached the elimination rounds at numerous tournaments, including the quarterfinals at ADA Nationals and the double-octo finals rounds of the Texas Open, the California swing tournaments at Berkeley, the University of Kentucky, and Georgia State.

Loehr graduated from UT Dallas with a BA in political science and a BS in Public Affairs, while earning Summa Cum Laude honors. In 2016, Loehr continued his studies at UT Dallas by earning a MA in Public Policy in 2018. While pursuing his master's degree, Loehr served as a volunteer debate coach at the Liberal Arts and Sciences Academy in Austin, Texas.

Earning a law degree from the University of Texas (Austin) in 2021 was Loehr's final academic pursuit. He began his legal career as an associate working at the Dallas law firm of Polsinelli. He was a member of the corporate and transactional group, focused on serving health care entities in M&A transactions.

In 2022, Loehr relocated to Austin, Texas and became an associate at Winstead PC, where he worked in the Corporate Securities/Merger & Acquisitions department.

In his desire to help individuals rather than corporations, Loehr joined the Austin firm of Cofer & Connelly, PLC, where he previously had served as a law clerk for a year. At Cofer & Connelly, Loehr dealt mostly with criminal defense, family law, and personal injury cases.

Loehr also served as Precinct Chair for the Travis County Democratic Party and was an appointed Commissioner on the City of Austin Ethics Review Commission.



Catherine Elizabeth Shuster
July 17, 1974 to July 9, 2024

Kate Shuster, an NDT champion debater for Emory and an accomplished educational consultant and writer, lost her battle with pancreatic cancer at the age of 49.

Shuster qualified to the NDT three times: in 1994 (with Shannon Redmond), in 1995 (with Ronna Landy), and in 1996 (with David Heidt).

At the 1994 NDT, Shuster & Redmond were 5-3 with 15 ballots. Shuster & Redmond upset the 10th seed from Iowa (Tiffany Earl & Monte Johnson) in the double-octos. Shuster & Redmond were defeated in the octofinals by Northwestern (Sean McCaffity & Jody Terry), the eventual NDT winner. The following year, Shuster qualified for the NDT with Ronna Landy but did not advance to the elimination rounds.

In Memoriam

In her senior year, Shuster, debating with David Heidt, received a first-round at-large bid with an 8th place ranking, despite an inauspicious start to the year by losing in the double-octo finals at Northern Iowa and then going 0-7 at the Kentucky Round Robin.

In short order, Shuster & Heidt turned their year around and achieved numerous late-elimination round finishes. Their best performances included reaching the semifinals at Redlands, Harvard, and USC and the quarterfinals at Baylor and Northwestern.

At the 50th NDT hosted by Wake Forest in 1996, Shuster & Heidt became NDT champions. In the preliminary rounds, they were 7-1 with 18 ballots and received a bye in the double-octos. They defeated Dartmouth (Hung & Lehotsky) in the octofinals, Redlands (Lambrinos & Lundberg) in the quarterfinals, and Baylor (Blanchard & Dunbar) in the semifinals. In the final round, Shuster & Heidt debating on the affirmative defeated Iowa (Corey Rayburn & Chris Mutel) in a 5-0 decision.

After graduating from Emory with a BA in philosophy, Shuster remained involved in teaching debate and argumentation. She co-wrote (with John Meany) two books on Parliamentary Debate. She served as the Co-Director of the Middle School Public Debate Program, which taught debate to thousands of middle schools throughout the United States. She established several competitive debate leagues that continue to exist today.

In 2009, Shuster earned her PhD in education from The Claremont Graduate University. She relocated to Alabama and established her own consultancy business, which conducted educational research, program evaluation, and project management for national and international clients.

In 2018, Shuster authored a groundbreaking report for the Southern Poverty Law Center, *Teaching Hard History: American Slavery*, which documented the failings of U.S. schools to teach about the history of slavery. To address this deficiency, Shuster developed a comprehensive guide for teaching the history of slavery to all grade levels.

Shuster founded The Hard History Project in 2020, to bring her cutting-edge research into classrooms and communities. She created podcasts for teaching hard history and collaborated with museums and historic sites to connect them with K-12 educators. She trained thousands of educators in more than a dozen countries.

Recently, Emory awarded Shuster with the Warren Akin Outstanding Alumni Contributions award, and last year she received a major award from the National Parks Service for her work with the Salem Maritime National Historic Site.



Darius Eugene White
August 2, 1995 to April 13, 2024

Darius White, a two-time NDT debater for the University of Oklahoma and a high school debate coach, passed away at the age of 28.

White competed in high school policy debate for four years at C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport, Louisiana. After attending South Louisiana Community College (SLCC), he transferred to the University of Oklahoma.

In 2017, White, debating with Nico Juarez, received a first-round at-large bid to the NDT. They were ranked in 14th place.

During the 2016-17 debate season, White & Juarez reached the semifinals at Gonzaga, the quarterfinals at UMKC and Fullerton, the octofinals at Northwestern, and the double-octo-finals at Wake and USC.

At the 2017 NDT, White & Juarez reached the double-octo finals after going 5-3 with 16 ballots. White received 17th place speaker honors.

During the 2017-18 debate season, White debated at only three tournaments.. Debating with Brittany Plange, he reached the semifinals at the first California Swing Tournament at Berkeley and the double-octo finals at the second California Swing tournament. Debating with Laurence Zhou, White advanced to the octofinals at the 2017 CEDA Nationals Tournament.

The pinnacle of Darius White's debate career occurred during the 2018-19 season when he debated with Jazmine Pickens. That year, White & Pickens received a first-round at-large bid. They were ranked as the 10th best team.

White & Pickens won two tournaments (USC & Weber), placed second at the Val Browning Round Robin, advanced to the quarterfinals at Wake, reached the octofinals at Gonzaga and lost in the doubles at Georgia State.

At the 2019 NDT, White & Pickens were 6-2 with 17 ballots. As the 8th seed, they defeated Mary Washington (Coon & Lewis) in the double-octo finals and were defeated in the octofinals by Northwestern (Jankovsky & Weideman).

The following week, White & Pickens won CEDA Nationals. They were the top seed with an 8-0 record and defeated Kansas in the finals (Kenny Delph & Azja Butler).

After concluding his college debate career, Darius White returned to Louisiana and coached the Caddo Magnet High School team to a district title and a state championship in 2022.